



Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the United States of America on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 16 June 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America stating that Mr. Howard Wachtel has been appointed alternate representative of the United States on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.





Security Council

Distr.: General
14 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representatives of Australia on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 13 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations stating that Ms. Susan King, Ms. Amy Haddad and Mr. Scott-Marshall Harper have been appointed alternate representatives of Australia on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
15 August 2014

Original: English

Twenty-eighth progress report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in Liberia**I. Introduction**

1. The Security Council, by its resolution 2116 (2013), extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) until 30 September 2014, and requested me to keep it informed of the situation in Liberia and the implementation of that resolution. The present report provides an update on major developments since my report of 18 February 2014 (S/2014/123), and contains the findings and recommendations of a strategic review and electoral needs assessment missions conducted during the period under review.

II. Major developments**A. Political situation**

2. The October 2014 senatorial elections served as the backdrop of developments, with political discourse dominated by controversies over allegations of corruption, perceptions of economic injustice amid weak fiscal performance, community animosity towards concessionaires and public expressions of dissatisfaction with national authorities.

3. The National Elections Commission intensified preparations for the October elections. Between January and March, the Commission updated the voter roll, registering 104,710 new voters, well short of its target of 400,000, which it attributed to public apathy. Just over 1.9 million Liberians are registered to vote, 49 per cent of whom are women. While the Executive Branch has allocated \$13.6 million for the elections, delays in releasing the funds hampered preparations. Meanwhile, on 21 May, the Commission requested UNMIL to provide support for the elections. That same day, a court in Monrovia ruled in favour of a petition by the Commission to deregister 15 of 31 political parties for constitutional, procedural and other violations, a decision upheld by the Supreme Court on 23 July. A request to deregister another five parties is still being considered by a lower court. In June, the Legislature passed the Election Law Amendment Bill, clarifying complaint mechanisms and encouraging greater female participation as candidates and party executives. While a code of conduct adopted in March requires lawmakers to declare their assets and



stipulates that Government officials must resign three years prior to standing for election, so far there has been no monitoring or enforcement.

4. Political parties also prepared for the elections, with the ruling Unity Party (UP) and opposition party Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) holding primaries in June. UP selected its Chair, Varney Sherman, as its senatorial candidate for Grand Cape Mount County and endorsed the re-selection of Senator Gbehzongar Findley of Grand Bassa County, the President Pro-Tempore. Former presidential candidate and CDC standard-bearer George Weah secured the party's nomination for Montserrado County, and CDC Secretary General Nathaniel McGill was nominated for Gbarpolu County. However, procedural issues marred selection processes, and partisans accused party executives of skewing primaries in favour of preferred candidates. The nomination process took place from 2 to 24 July; a provisional list of 140 candidates was announced by the National Elections Commission.

5. Liberia's weak economic performance triggered heated discussions, particularly between the Executive Branch and the Legislature, which intensified oversight activities. The House of Representatives summoned the Minister of Finance and Planning twice in May, requesting an explanation for revenue shortfalls that impeded implementation of the 2013/14 budget. On 16 May, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf submitted to the Legislature a proposed 2014/15 national budget of \$529 million, approximately \$54 million less than for 2013/14; as at 1 August, the legislative review continued. Responding to public concern about the economy, on 28 May, the President acknowledged declining economic growth.

6. In May, the Legislature conducted public hearings on the General Audit Commission's reports on State entities between 2006 and 2010, though no action followed. The House of Representatives also summoned the Minister of Public Works in July to account for poor performance in infrastructural development and maintenance; earlier, in February, the President announced an investigation into all contracts between the ministry and construction companies, following findings of the International Monetary Fund that contracts were issued without budgetary allocations or proper procurement procedures. Meanwhile, on 15 July, the President announced 48 Government nominations, which are pending Senate confirmation.

7. On 16 June, Christopher Neyer, former president of the National Oil Company of Liberia, published an open letter to President Johnson Sirleaf containing detailed allegations of nepotism, cronyism, corruption and political interference in the management of the oil sector, including the solicitation of bribes, which allegedly were used for her campaign activities in 2011 and now to advance the political and economic prospects of her son, Robert Sirleaf, former Chair of the Board of Directors of the National Oil Company of Liberia. The President publicly denied the allegations, while the House of Representatives and the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission announced their intentions to investigate. Meanwhile, Mr. Sirleaf and Mr. Neyer announced their intention to contest the Montserrado senate seat as independent candidates, respectively, on 17 July and 23 July.

8. Concerns about the Government's commitment to press freedom were triggered by arrests of outspoken critics of the President. Radio journalist Henry Costa was detained in March on charges of "terroristic threats" for statements made during a broadcast about Fomba Sirleaf, the President's stepson and head of the National Security Agency. In July, publisher Octavin Williams was detained and later charged with assaulting a police officer. The Press Union of Liberia publicly

condemned what it characterized as a "classic act of harassment" compelling self-censorship of journalists.

9. Some 500 people gathered on 3 July to protest the ArcelorMittal iron ore company in Nimba County, claiming non-compliance with the company's social commitments. The demonstration escalated into a clash between the Liberia National Police and protesters, some of whom reportedly used firearms and destroyed company property. UNMIL supported the response by national security actors. Many protesters reportedly refused to engage in dialogue other than through their Senator, Prince Johnson. The following day, Nimba County Representative Prince Tokpa was briefly detained after demanding the release of arrested protesters; 57 persons were arrested for kidnapping and terroristic threats, among other charges. On 10 July, President Johnson Sirleaf announced that the demonstration was "an attack on the Liberian economy", and that those involved would be prosecuted. Government ministers and the head of the Nimba legislative caucus subsequently met with the affected communities and constituted a peace and recovery committee.

B. National reconciliation and reform initiatives

10. Delays continued in the national reconciliation process, with the Palava Hut programme launched last October stalled pending the development of an implementation strategy. The national technical forum on reconciliation convened irregularly. While funding has been lacking for reconciliation initiatives, the Government committed \$3 million for reconciliation in the proposed 2014/15 budget. In June, a national symposium provided an opportunity to discuss the importance of reviewing national symbols, which is part of the National Reconciliation Roadmap.

11. The Constitution Review Committee, supported by UNMIL and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), continued efforts to advance constitutional reform. Though experiencing resource and organizational constraints, the Committee completed in May simultaneous civic education and public consultations, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund. Thousands of submissions were received during these consultations. As each proposed change requires approval by referendum, the Committee intends to integrate issues arising from consultations into a few proposed amendments, which it aims to submit to the President and Legislature by the end of August.

12. The Ministry of Internal Affairs continued to implement its decentralization programme, including consultations on possible changes to local government structures, although the deconcentration of functions within the 14 entities identified has yet to begin. A draft local government act proposing changes requiring constitutional amendments, including streamlining administrative and statutory districts and cities, and electing local authorities, has yet to be submitted to the Legislature.

13. Proposed acts on land rights and the establishment of a new land authority, as well as policies on land administration and alternative dispute resolution, are under development, while the Legislature passed a land conveyance bill on 22 July. Six land coordination centres established by the Land Commission continued to mediate

disputes, and the Commission is pursuing the development of an alternative dispute resolution policy.

C. Security situation

14. The overall security situation remained generally stable, though fragile. Insecurity was characterized by tensions between concessionaires and affected communities; high rates of sexual and gender-based violence, with 18 per cent of reported cases involving children under 10 years of age; and armed robbery, with one third of cases involving firearms; and inter-communal violence. Incidents of mob violence decreased, owing in part to a joint Government and UNMIL information campaign. UNMIL provided support to national security actors, which continued to face challenges.

15. The incident that occurred on 3 July at ArcelorMittal, described in paragraph 9, was the most serious security incident in almost three years, illustrating that tensions between communities and international concessions represent a significant security concern. Previously, following a week of failed negotiations in April, youths had demonstrated against ArcelorMittal, claiming that the company had failed to meet its social commitments. In March, workers and community members protested against Golden Veroleum, in Grand Kru County, and BHP Billiton, in Nimba County, for the same reason.

16. In March, a confrontation between Christians and traditionalists in Lofa County resulted in the destruction of a church and reported incidents of beatings and abductions. While district authorities settled the dispute, tensions remain.

D. Regional issues

17. The situation in the area bordering Côte d'Ivoire remained generally stable, notwithstanding attacks in Côte d'Ivoire near the border on 23 February and 15 May, resulting in the arrival of 600 Ivorian refugees. Additionally, as I reported in my report of 15 May on the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) (S/2014/342), on 17 February Liberian and Ivorian security forces colluded in the forcible return to Côte d'Ivoire of 21 Ivorians, including 14 holding refugee status, raising concerns of refoulement.

18. On 17 June, a Monrovia court sentenced to life imprisonment 13 Liberians found guilty of mercenarism in connection with two cross-border attacks into Côte d'Ivoire, including the attack that resulted in the killing of seven United Nations peacekeepers in June 2012. Five persons similarly charged were acquitted in May. The case prompted critical reactions from some politicians, alleging targeting of Grand Gedehs.

E. Humanitarian situation

19. Since the start of 2014, 12,022 refugees have returned voluntarily to Côte d'Ivoire with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), leaving approximately 37,700 Ivorian refugees in Liberia. In March, the Tripartite Commission for the Voluntary Repatriation of Ivorian

Refugees expressed satisfaction at progress towards the return and reintegration of refugees and agreed to accelerate the pace of voluntary repatriation; 37,727 refugees remain in three camps and border communities in Liberia.

20. As indicated in my May report on UNOCI, the Ebola viral disease was confirmed in Guinea, near the Liberian border, on 22 March, subsequently spreading to Liberia and Sierra Leone. By 30 July, a total of 383 cases had been reported in Liberia, resulting in 216 deaths, including of health-care workers. The Government of Liberia, supported by the United Nations, initiated an awareness-raising campaign, including messages carried in local languages on UNMIL Radio, and revised its national response plan with support from the World Health Organization (WHO). However, tradition, denial and community resistance proved difficult to surmount. WHO and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) received \$617,000 from the United Nations central emergency response fund on 14 July. While the Tripartite Commission comprising Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and UNHCR agreed in March to accelerate voluntary returns, facilitated repatriations from Liberia were suspended at the request of Côte d'Ivoire, resuming in June, and suspended again in July amid a second wave of the virus. Facing a continuing pandemic, the Government of Liberia launched an accelerated plan on 30 July, seeking \$20.9 million for its response effort.

F. Human rights situation

21. The human rights situation was characterized by an absence of effective mechanisms to guarantee accountability and ensure human rights protection; high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence; and harmful traditional practices.

22. Harmful traditional practices included abduction, forced initiation into secret societies and female genital cutting. Two incidents involving the Poro secret society drew national attention, including the gang rape of a woman in Grand Cape Mount County in April and the abduction and forced initiation of a police officer in Gbarpolu County in May. In June, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Council of Chiefs and Elders publicly condemned these incidents, reiterating regulations on society activities. However, the perpetrators were not held accountable.

23. The Government made some progress implementing the national human rights action plan, identifying focal points and developing a monitoring framework. In March, a national action plan on human trafficking was launched, and a proposed strategy for fulfilling Liberia's international human rights obligations is being considered by the Cabinet.

G. Economic situation

24. Economic growth slowed from 8.1 per cent in 2013 to 6.8 per cent in 2014, with revenues affected by reduced global demand for commodities. Inflation rose to 9.8 per cent in April owing to exchange rate depreciation. Between December 2012 and April 2014, the Liberian dollar depreciated by 21 per cent against the United States dollar, 6.5 per cent since mid-January, resulting in reduced spending power for the most economically vulnerable people.

III. Development of national security and justice capacities

A. Security transition

25. The handover of the UNMIL security functions progressed in accordance with agreed timelines. National security agencies continued to serve as first line responders, with UNMIL providing back-up when required. By June, Liberian agencies had assumed responsibility for 81 per cent of static guard duties and all road-bound cash escort functions. Four of 15 counties no longer have UNMIL troops or formed police units deployed, creating public anxiety. Owing to the Government's financial and material constraints, the national security presence remains thin across the country. In addition to providing back-up, UNMIL secures international airports, two prisons and locations related to the security of the President. The proposed 2014/15 budget reflects a 27 per cent increase in allocations for the security sector over the previous fiscal year.

B. National security strategy and architecture

26. A review of the national security strategy continued, as did efforts to streamline the security architecture, with the Ministry of National Security and the National Bureau of Investigation ceasing operations in February. In May, the Ministry of Justice submitted a draft police act to the President that would provide for improved recruitment and promotion systems, as well as stronger oversight mechanisms, while insulating the police from political interference. Preparation of alien and nationality legislation is under way, while proposed legislation on drugs and the Drug Enforcement Agency are pending legislative approval. Liberia drew closer to compliance with regional small arms conventions, acquiring two weapons-marking machines in March that remain unused, and making appointments to the national small arms commission.

C. Liberia National Police

27. Despite some progress, the police struggled with inadequate manpower, limited logistics, particularly vehicles, which fall far short of the requirements, and a centralized organizational structure, which, along with insufficient incentives, perpetuated understaffing outside of Monrovia. In many areas, the police rely on UNMIL for transportation and other operational support. On 26 July, a new strategic plan was launched to guide further police capacity development. With the graduation of new recruits in May, the strength of the police stands at 4,846, of whom 18 per cent are female; 23 per cent of police personnel are based outside of Monrovia.

28. The middle- and senior-level management of the Liberia National Police remained the focus of efforts to improve leadership and command, with 78 officers to date completing training at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration. In March, the President appointed four senior police officials, including three graduates of the programme. In July, training commenced at the Liberia National Police training centre in Harper, although overall funding and organizational constraints hampered training.

29. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UNMIL supported national law enforcement in the transnational crimes unit, which had some operational success, despite lacking allocations for permanent operations. Inter-agency collaboration on intelligence gathering, investigation and operations remained weak.

D. Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization

30. Efforts to professionalize the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization continued, including senior management training for 50 officers completed in July. Command-level changes made in June sought to enhance accountability. However, the Bureau requires greater capacity to control Liberia's borders effectively, as well as financial resources to deactivate nearly 600 unsuitable officers. The training of new recruits is pending the completion of the rehabilitation of the Foya training facility.

E. Judicial, legal and corrections institutions

31. In April, the justice and security hub in Gbarnga became fully operational with the inauguration of its circuit court. However, the operations of personnel deployed to monitor human rights and advise on sexual and gender-based violence were disrupted owing to government failure to provide for recurring costs. While construction on the hubs in Zwedru and Harper has not begun, personnel, including human rights monitors, prosecutors and public defenders, have begun providing services. Initial assessments of the Gbarnga hub found that the provision of security services is delayed by centralized reporting lines and command structures, and more public outreach is required. Moreover, sustaining the hubs requires government funding for recurrent costs.

32. As recommended by a management and accountability review conducted in 2013, the Department of Prosecution developed a strategic plan and initiated the training of 20 prosecutors. The Supreme Court continued efforts to standardize court fees and fines to increase judicial transparency.

33. Pretrial detention rates remained high, at 74 per cent. Insecurity at corrections facilities remained a concern, with seven escape incidents and five prison disturbances. Construction of a new prison in Cheesemanburg, near Monrovia, began with support from the Peacebuilding Fund, though government funding will be required for its completion. The Bureau of Corrections and Rehabilitation faced serious staffing shortfalls. In June, the training of 70 recruits, including 15 women, began. The Bureau has 267 personnel, 20 per cent of whom are women.

F. Armed Forces of Liberia

34. The National Defence Strategy of 11 February 2014, made public in July, defines the role of the army as protecting territorial integrity, disaster response and assisting the police in national emergencies. Under the strategy, the force should reach 2,500 personnel by mid-2015, an increase of some 25 per cent. In April, 134 recruits completed basic training, bringing the strength of the armed forces to 2,040. The code

of military discipline was signed by the Minister of Defence in 2013, but has not yet been ratified by the Legislature.

35. The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) trained 16 army personnel in explosive ordnance disposal, bringing to 32 the total number of army engineers trained to an intermediate level. UNMAS and UNMIL are supporting the Ministries of Defence and Justice on the modalities, operating procedures and timelines for national assumption of explosive ordnance disposal responsibilities.

36. Liberia continued to contribute a platoon to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

37. On 12 February, the President commissioned two defender boats for the coast guard.

IV. Extension of State authority

A. State authority

38. The Government continued to consolidate its authority throughout the country, though challenges remained with respect to service delivery, which were most acute in the health and education sectors. A report published in June by the Governance Commission outlined these challenges. Services were disrupted by protests by health and education workers over poor or unpaid benefits.

39. The Government prioritized infrastructure, energy and transport, including electrification projects. Construction began on roads to connect Monrovia with Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, though most of the country remained inaccessible, particularly during the rainy season.

40. Since January 2014, the Ministry of Finance expanded direct payroll deposits to nine counties, facilitating salary payments to county authorities and increasing transparency. In May, the Civil Service Agency and UNMIL carried out joint field assessments revealing that local official absenteeism had reduced since the devolution of some administrative functions. The Ministry of Internal Affairs began a process to eliminate "ghost" and over-age workers from ministry records. Some perceived this as an attempt to remove uncooperative chiefs from the payroll, which could have implications during the electoral period.

41. The Ministry of Internal Affairs maintained a freeze of county development funds imposed in December, pending an audit of 10 funds. In June, the Senate began confirmation hearings for county assistant superintendents for fiscal and financial management appointed by the President to manage the funds.

B. Governance

42. The Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission increased audits, investigations and prosecutions of corruption cases, and reviewed asset declarations, including those of the President. While it investigated two cases involving former government officials, the Commission has not yet taken action against 30 individuals believed to have misrepresented their assets during a verification conducted in 2013.

43. On 15 May, the Executive Director of the Public Procurement and Concessions Commission resigned, citing the reluctance of officials heading some public corporations to abide by procurement procedures.

C. Natural resources

44. Mining and agriculture activities generated tensions between companies and communities. In February, the Government attempted to mediate long-running disputes with communities opposed to the expansion of Equatorial Palm Oil in Grand Bassa County and Golden Veroleum in Sinoe County. Both disputes remain unresolved.

45. In February, representatives of communities in Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Lofa and Rivercess counties threatened to halt logging activities unless they received the 30 per cent share of land rental fees owed to them by law. The Government committed to paying \$1.5 million, an amount disputed by the communities.

46. In February, the former managing director and five other senior officials of the Forestry Development Authority were indicted on conspiracy charges related to the irregular granting of private use permits. Thirty-four permits remain under review for non-compliance with applicable regulations. In April, a moratorium on the issuance of new community forestry management agreements was lifted, although an internal investigation revealed continued flaws in the award process.

47. Diamond revenues were affected by monitoring difficulties and illicit mining. The report of the March 2013 Kimberley review mission, published in May, outlined areas of non-compliance with the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, including weak internal controls and records, and an inadequate licensing system.

48. In June, the Liberia Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, reporting on extractive sector revenue during the 2011/12 period, revealed challenges such as poor record-keeping across government entities, and recommended measures to improve revenue collection and compliance, including additional audits and establishment of sanctions mechanisms.

49. In March, the House of Representatives conducted consultations on the draft petroleum bill and the National Oil Company of Liberia, during which participants questioned how Liberians would benefit from revenues stemming from the oil sector.

V. Comparative advantages of the United Nations Mission in Liberia and the country team

50. As indicated in my special report of 16 April 2012 (S/2012/230), the United Nations in 2012 began the civilian transition process, cataloguing UNMIL civilian tasks and conducting a capacity assessment of the country team. As I cautioned in that report, this revealed that the country team was unlikely to be in a position to assume most of the mission's residual civilian functions, and planning should therefore focus on identifying critical tasks that would eventually be transferred to Liberian or other non-United Nations partners, or cease upon UNMIL withdrawal. The process also revealed that, given positive developments in the country, UNMIL

no longer needed to fulfil child protection tasks beyond its general human rights mandate, as support for the protection needs of children is addressed by UNICEF.

51. Further to resolution 2116 (2013), UNMIL and the country team undertook a follow-up exercise to identify their respective comparative advantages. Preliminary findings showed that, generally, there is no duplication of effort, given the fundamental differences between peacekeeping operations and country team members, including mandates and resourcing, as well as integrated planning under "Delivering as one". It revealed several areas central to the mandate of UNMIL where mission engagement is critical, and where synergies with the country team and other partners remain important.

52. For example, while UNMIL has a comparative advantage in supporting access to justice, UNDP, UNICEF and UNODC complement those activities with specialized programming. While UNDP has an advantage in supporting the long-term process of decentralization, UNMIL has greater geographic reach and political leverage to support the process. Support to the constitutional review is a more time-bound process requiring political facilitation from UNMIL, while UNDP provides technical expertise. UNMIL and the country team also have complementary roles with respect to gender and natural resource management.

53. Planning for the reconfiguration of United Nations engagement in Liberia will continue. An effective and sustainable transition from peacekeeping will require considerable efforts to secure voluntary funding for expanding the country team's interventions.

VI. Strategic review

54. As I informed in my report of 15 May 2014 on UNOCI (S/2014/342), the United Nations engagement in West Africa will transform considerably in the coming years, with the ongoing drawdown and eventual withdrawal of UNOCI and UNMIL. While the trajectory in both Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire remains positive, there are still serious political and security challenges, as well as latent threats, which risk undermining the stability achieved over the past decade, facilitated by regional and United Nations peacekeeping operations. I have therefore been cautioning in my recent reports on UNMIL and UNOCI that every precaution must be taken to prevent any serious reversal of the hard-won gains in the region. Prudent planning for their eventual withdrawal is therefore essential, while ensuring that they are adequately equipped to fulfil their mandated tasks and achieve their strategic objectives.

55. Strategic reviews led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and comprising participants from the Department of Field Support, the Department of Safety and Security, UNMIL and UNOCI visited Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and the border area between the two countries from 7 to 19 February, to assess the strategic contexts so as to ensure that the missions are appropriately configured to perform their core mandated political and security tasks. Military and police capability studies of both missions preceded the reviews. The members of the strategic review received detailed briefings from UNMIL and UNOCI, and in Liberia consulted with President Johnson Sirleaf and members of her Cabinet; members of the legislature; representatives of political parties and civil society; the Governance Commission; the leadership of the national army, police and other security agencies; members of

the donor and diplomatic communities; and the United Nations country team. The team also travelled to Nimba and Grand Gedeh counties on the Liberian side of the border and to Toulépleu on the Ivorian side, in order to consult with civil authorities and security officials; community representatives, including traditional leaders, women and youth; and Ivorian refugees and returnees. The findings and recommendations pertaining to Côte d'Ivoire and the border area, including with respect to intermission cooperation, are contained in my report of 15 May 2014 on UNOCI (S/2014/342).

A. Findings of the strategic review

56. A review of Liberia should be placed in its historical context, including nearly a century and a half of constitutionally sanctioned exclusion of the vast majority of the population, a quarter century of political crisis, and 14 years of successive, brutal civil wars. What has been achieved since peace was restored in 2003, including the return to democratic order in 2006, is remarkable. Socioeconomic indicators have improved, and President Johnson Sirleaf has spearheaded reforms focused on transforming the country. As the President has observed, Liberia's journey has not been easy and it is not over.

57. At the same time, the peace process is far from complete and risks reversal in the absence of sincere efforts to address issues at the root of Liberia's conflict, including exclusion and impunity. The review found a fraught political environment, characterized by deep public distrust of the Government and other political actors, and lack of confidence in national institutions. Many interlocutors provided a sobering assessment of the growing perception regarding a lack of political will and sense of urgency in pursuing an inclusive national reconciliation process, enhancing good governance or pursuing political reforms aimed at enlarging political space and addressing historical injustices deeply entrenched in Liberia's political, economic and social fabric. Meanwhile, stressing their role in a democratic society, civil society and media representatives pointed to examples of Government hostility and tactics they characterized as punitive and intimidating.

58. Dynamics have also been affected by preparations for the October senatorial elections and manoeuvring in advance of the 2017 presidential elections. Pointing to the expected transfer of power to a new Government in January 2018, some interlocutors assessed that much more progress should be achieved during the tenure of the present administration, given its experience and international prestige. Most urgent would be efforts to reform pre-war governance structures widely perceived as enabling a narrow elite to benefit with impunity from corruption, nepotism and cronyism, while most citizens still await the promised peace dividend.

59. There has been no apparent military threat in Liberia for several years. However, risks continue to be posed by civil unrest and mob violence, which ignites quickly, often escalating beyond the capability of national security institutions. Moreover, risks remain that could be exacerbated by latent threats, many of which led to the civil war, including deep divisions characterized by ethnic and regional tensions, economic inequality and competition over national resources, land disputes and the incomplete integration of former combatants. Serious concern was also expressed about the large population of unemployed, unskilled youths having

nothing to lose from violent or other antisocial behaviour, who are vulnerable to manipulation for political or other ends.

60. In 2012, the United Nations and the Government of Liberia agreed that the gradual handover of the UNMIL security responsibilities would be conducted gradually over two to three years, during which time the Government would accelerate the build-up of national security capacity. It was further agreed to combine a progressive geographic and functional handover of the UNMIL security responsibilities, while the mission would simultaneously continue its military drawdown. To date, there has not been any major security incident in areas that no longer have an UNMIL military presence, though public perceptions of insecurity is high, as deployment of additional national security personnel in those areas has been limited, amid budgetary and other constraints.

B. Recommendations of the strategic review

61. Given expectations that the 2017 presidential election and subsequent transfer of power to a new administration in January 2018 will be a sensitive period for the country, the security transition process, specifically the full handover of the UNMIL security tasks to national authorities, should conclude no later than 2016. This would provide the Government with nearly two years to consolidate its efforts to fully assume all its security responsibilities, including those most vital to national security. It was also assessed that lack of progress on sensitive processes such as national reconciliation and inclusive political reforms has contributed to a continuing disarticulation between the operational achievement of security sector reform and security sector governance. Therefore, at this stage of Liberia's post-conflict recovery, it was assessed that there was a need to reimagine United Nations support for the country. It is therefore recommended to further adjust the UNMIL military and police components, as detailed in section VIII below, while also strengthening the mandate of UNMIL in critical areas related to national reconciliation and political processes, including through an explicit good offices role for the Special Representative.

VII. Electoral needs assessment mission

62. The Liberian National Elections Commission, in a letter dated 29 January 2014, requested United Nations assistance in preparing for the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for October 2017. Accordingly, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, in his capacity as the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance activities, deployed an electoral needs assessment mission to Liberia from 2 to 13 May, which included representatives from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNDP.

63. The assessment mission consulted broadly with Liberian and international stakeholders, including the Commission; ministers and other senior Government officials; Supreme Court justices; legislators; the Governance Commission; the Constitutional Review Committee; representatives of opposition political parties and civil society; media; members of donor and diplomatic communities; UNMIL; and the United Nations country team. The mission assessed the political and electoral environment and evaluated the legal and institutional framework for the elections

and the capacity of national elections stakeholders to develop recommendations on the electoral assistance the United Nations should provide. The assessment mission based its recommendations on the requirements for building national capacity to conduct electoral operations.

A. Findings of the assessment mission

64. Considerable attention is already being focused on Liberia's third post-conflict presidential elections, scheduled for October 2017, with speculation about who would succeed President Johnson Sirleaf, who is constitutionally serving her last term in office. Meanwhile, preparations are under way for the 2014 senatorial elections. Many parties have begun efforts to consolidate leadership and other party structures, generating conflict within some political parties, while the campaign period is scheduled to begin on 12 August. The high degree of interest in these elections has heightened tensions among political parties, and between parties and the Commission, in the absence of a fully functioning dialogue platform. The deregistration of some parties was also controversial.

65. The situation remains stable, but fragile, given underlying tensions that could be exacerbated during the electoral period, unless political and social challenges are properly addressed, and socioeconomic development fairly benefits communities, including unemployed youths. Interlocutors also expressed unease about election security as UNMIL continues to draw down, given the slow build-up of national security capacity.

66. Efforts to revise the legal framework for elections are under way. The constitutional review could have implications for the 2017 elections, as several issues relevant to elections and the scope of presidential appointments have been proposed. In accordance with the Constitution, a national referendum on each proposed change would have to be held at least one year after legislative approval. A review of the electoral law has been under way since 2012, with a draft proposal before the Legislature that would give the Commission greater autonomy, though it maintains some contentious provisions, including the presidential power to appoint all seven commissioners, subject to Senate confirmation, which opposition parties believe compromises the independence and impartiality of the Commission.

B. Recommendations of the assessment mission

67. In view of the possible escalation of political and social tensions, as well as Liberia's history of electoral violence, the mission recommended that all Liberian stakeholders, supported by the United Nations and other international partners, should redouble their efforts to facilitate constructive dialogue and undertake other measures to provide reasonable guarantees that electoral outcomes would be accepted by all stakeholders. It further recommended that the Inter-Party Consultative Committee, which provides a forum for dialogue and engaging political parties, should receive additional support to strengthen its effectiveness. Efforts are also required to enhance the participation of women in electoral processes, both as voters and candidates.

68. Given the primary responsibility of Liberian institutions for organizing and conducting elections, the mission considered that building local capacities,

including for logistics, should be the primary focus of international electoral assistance, which would mostly be provided through a UNDP-managed project. The Commission would need to develop sustainable solutions for addressing the persistent challenge of accessing remote areas for electoral processes.

69. UNMIL is not currently mandated to provide electoral assistance. The mission recommended that the mandate of UNMIL be revised to include the provision of logistical support to facilitate access to remote areas during the 2014 elections. UNMIL should also work closely with national stakeholders to support the development of a national security coordination mechanism involving all institutions with a role in providing, financing or overseeing election security.

70. For the duration of its presence in Liberia, UNMIL, working closely with UNDP, should coordinate electoral assistance to ensure harmonization and prevent duplication. UNMIL should also have a mandate to support Liberian stakeholders in creating an environment conducive to the conduct of peaceful elections, including through an explicit good offices role for the Special Representative.

VIII. Proposed adjustments to the United Nations Mission in Liberia

A. Military component

71. As indicated in my previous reports, UNMIL has been progressively drawing down since 2006, bringing the mission from its peak of 15,250 troops to its current strength of 4,619 military personnel. The force comprises four infantry battalions, including a battalion-sized quick reaction force (2,750 troops); force headquarters (82 staff officers); enabling units (1,654 personnel); and 133 military observers.

72. In my special report of 16 April 2012 (S/2013/230), I presented recommendations for the further drawdown of UNMIL in three phases through mid-2015, taking into account the threat environment and assessment of the time required for building national capacity to assume the UNMIL security responsibilities, which would bring the mission to approximately 3,750 troops concentrated in Monrovia and sensitive border areas. By its resolutions 2066 (2012) and 2116 (2013), the Security Council endorsed those recommendations, while reaffirming the primary responsibility of the Government for security and protecting civilians. The second phase of the drawdown was completed in June 2014; consequently, UNMIL no longer has a military presence in 7 of 15 counties.

73. Owing to the challenges experienced by the Government in assuming greater security responsibility, it would be prudent to maintain the drawdown timelines agreed in 2012, which would involve reducing a further 988 military personnel by mid-2015, leaving UNMIL with 3,631 troops, including three battalions deployed in Monrovia and at the borders with Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. Specifically, the adjustments would include the repatriation of the quick reaction battalion (650 troops) and military enablers, including one engineering unit (191 personnel), transport elements (30 personnel), a military hospital (60 personnel), staff officers (29) and military observers (28).

74. However, it could be possible to accelerate the military drawdown, taking into account the lack of an apparent military threat, while ensuring that the mission

retains critical enabling capability, bringing UNMIL to a strength of 2,619 troops by mid-2015. This could be achieved by repatriating the battalion and enablers as detailed in paragraph 73 above, in addition to the battalion deployed at the border with Guinea (700 personnel), as well as additional engineering assets (207 personnel) and additional transport elements (105 personnel).

75. Under both options, in order to project military effect, UNMIL would focus on high-risk areas, while shifting to a more mobile posture, requiring the retention of all its military helicopters, and enhancing situational awareness and early warning capabilities. UNMIL would continue to protect the population within its capabilities and areas of deployment, without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the Liberian authorities.

76. In view of the recommendation to complete the security transition by mid-2016, it would be possible to drawdown further by then, bringing the UNMIL strength to one battalion and required enablers by mid-2016, which would be consolidated in Monrovia, in order to provide a rapid response capability to assist national security services in protecting the population as required. The regional quick reaction force to be established within UNOCI in accordance with Security Council resolution 2162 (2014) could provide over-the-horizon support to UNMIL in the event of a serious deterioration of the security situation in Liberia, without prejudice to its primary responsibility for providing security in Côte d'Ivoire.

B. Police component

77. As at 1 August, UNMIL police strength stood at 1,434, out of an authorized strength of 1,763 personnel, including 498 police advisers, 1,265 personnel in 10 formed police units and 32 correction advisers. There are now eight formed police units deployed in Liberia: three in Monrovia; one each in Gbarnga, Greenville, and Voinjama; and one has been split to cover Tubmanburg and Buchanan and another split to cover Zwedru and Harper.

78. In its resolution 2066 (2012), the Security Council authorized the deployment of three additional formed police units. As indicated in my last report, one unit was deployed to provide temporary support for the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) in January, while another was diverted to support the start-up of MINUSMA. It is feasible to maintain the UNMIL police component at the currently deployed level of eight formed police units. However, given the enhanced requirements for supporting the development of the national security services, no reduction of UNMIL police advisers is recommended. Additional advisers would be added within the authorized ceiling to support the reform efforts of the national immigration service.

C. Support implications

79. The poor and limited infrastructure in Liberia presents unique challenges for UNMIL. During the six-month rainy season, roads become impassable and cannot sustain major logistics movements, and require repair during the dry season to allow transport operations. There are no in-country commercial alternatives to the UNMIL military engineering units that keep critical supply lines open; there are also serious shortfalls in the national medical system. Despite the military drawdown, UNMIL is

still required to support civilian personnel, including police, deployed throughout the country. While commercial alternatives to the UNMIL military enablers may be procured from outside of Liberia, this option would be prohibitively expensive. Given the serious logistical challenges, UNMIL must retain military enabling capabilities for the duration of its presence in Liberia, or the mission would not be able to fulfil its mandate. The Government and the country team have been advised to identify alternative options for their access to remote areas once the UNMIL enablers are withdrawn.

D. Safety and security of personnel

80. The Government has primary responsibility for ensuring the safety and security of United Nations personnel and installations. While that capacity is being developed, the United Nations relies on UNMIL as back-up for its civilian security structure, which is sufficient in areas of the country without UNMIL troops, as the threat to the Organization is assessed as low. Since 1 February, three incidents of armed robbery targeting United Nations personnel were reported, in addition to 30 non-weapons-related crimes. Two national staff members, one soldier and one police officer, died.

IX. Financial implications

81. The General Assembly, by its resolution 68/291 of 30 June 2014, appropriated the amount of \$427.3 million, equivalent to some \$35.6 million per month, for the maintenance of UNMIL for 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. By the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to assess among Member States, without setting a precedent, \$213.6 million limited for the period 1 July to 31 December 2014. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNMIL beyond 30 September 2014, the cost of maintaining UNMIL until 30 June 2015 would be limited to the amounts approved by the General Assembly.

82. As at 30 July 2014, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for UNMIL amounted to \$147.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to \$4,747.9 million.

83. As at 30 June 2014, amounts owed to troop and formed police contributors totalled some \$13.1 million. Reimbursement of troop/formed police and contingent-owned equipment costs have been made for the period up to 30 April 2014 and 31 March 2014, respectively, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

X. Observations

84. The October senatorial elections will be a litmus test for Liberia's third post-conflict presidential elections in 2017, which will be a watershed and measure of sustained stability. The elections have set the context for political realignment and heightened tensions, while also prompting clashes in concession areas. I welcome the readiness of the National Electoral Commission to maintain dialogue with political parties, an important factor in managing a credible electoral process, even

as it faces heightened scrutiny. I would also urge the Government to ensure the provision of adequate funding for the elections.

85. In 2011, the National Electoral Commission conducted elections that international observers considered generally credible, although controversy, including an opposition boycott and violence on the eve of the presidential run-off, prompted national and international stakeholders to stress the urgency of constitutional and electoral reforms to improve perceptions about the legitimacy, transparency, fairness and inclusiveness of elections. Continuing opposition perceptions about the partiality of the Commission, and general public discontent with public sector performance and the overall political environment, are therefore concerning. The United Nations will respond positively to Liberia's request for electoral assistance for the period 2014-2018, primarily through a project managed by UNDP.

86. I am encouraged that the security situation has remained calm as UNMIL draws down, and welcome the excellent cooperation between the Government and UNMIL on transition planning. However, while the handover of security functions has progressed according to agreed timelines, limited national security presence and crippling resource constraints raise concerns about national capacity to sustainably fill gaps. It is encouraging that the Government has proposed increased allocations for the security sector in the 2014/15 national budget, pending legislative approval; however, there remains an urgent need to identify funding sources to address the urgent logistical and mobility gaps of the Liberia National Police.

87. I would also stress the critical need for an overarching strategy for addressing institutional weaknesses, which will become even more apparent as Liberian institutions assume greater security responsibility. It will be important that the Government formulate a concrete plan, with timelines and benchmarks, for building its security sector in tandem with the UNMIL drawdown, detailing leadership, coordination, monitoring and resources. Maintaining momentum in efforts to professionalize the Liberia National Police is essential. Oversight mechanisms are also critical and, in that regard, I would urge the early passage of the Police Act. I also welcome that many recent appointments to the police's senior leadership have come from within the ranks, and would encourage further reform of promotion and manpower policies, with a view to reducing over-concentration of the police in Monrovia.

88. The Constitution Review Committee has made important progress, despite facing serious constraints, including tight timelines, and concerns of civil society regarding a perceived predetermination to narrow the constitutional review. I would stress to all parties the importance of a transparent and inclusive process that meets the expectations of all Liberians.

89. I remain concerned about the slow pace of taking forward meaningful national reconciliation, including by addressing structural inequalities, enhancing accountable governance and building the democratic foundations of a nation reflecting the aspirations of all Liberians, and would urge the people and Government of Liberia to bring a renewed sense of urgency to the important work of building a unified nation for the future, while healing the cleavages of the past. The five-year anniversary of the release of the important report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the end of June provides an opportunity to help transform the social and institutional fabric of the country.

90. Natural resources are essential to the Liberian economy, and should provide equitable benefits for the economic development of all and the consolidation of peace. The Government has a critical role to play in mitigating conflict, enhancing transparency and reducing corruption. In that regard, I would urge the Government to implement appropriate consultation and dispute resolution mechanisms, and fast-track ongoing land reform initiatives.

91. Important progress has been made in decentralizing justice and security services through the hub in Gbarnga and the initiation of services by future hubs in Zwedru and Harper. However, it will be critical that the Government provide for the hubs' recurring costs. It is concerning that a high incidence of sexual and gender-based violence persists, and I would reiterate the importance of addressing impunity and strengthening the rule of law throughout the country.

92. Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone have been hit by a devastating outbreak of the Ebola viral disease, which has taken the lives of far too many. I wish to pay tribute to the national and international health-care workers and community leaders who have lost their lives treating the sick and sensitizing people about this highly contagious virus. In all three countries, fear, denial and distrust undermine the efforts of the brave women and men who are so courageously working to prevent its further spread. I welcome the efforts made by the Governments to contain the virus. The United Nations will continue to fully support those efforts, and I call upon partners to urgently and generously support the Governments of these three countries in controlling this vicious epidemic.

93. While some of the 13 Liberians convicted of the crime of mercenarism were implicated in the killing of seven UNOCI peacekeepers in June 2012, I wish to reiterate my expectation that Liberia and Côte d'Ivoire will bring the perpetrators of that international crime to justice, and that Liberia will domesticate the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. I welcome continued efforts to implement the Mano River Union cross-border security strategy, and would encourage the two Governments to work together within this framework, with support from UNMIL and UNOCI and the United Nations country teams.

94. Liberia's institutions remain weak, limiting the ability of the Government to deliver services to its citizens in most sectors. Building professional, effective and credible national institutions will require a renewed effort on the part of the Government to ensure the allocation of appropriate financial and human resources, and that reforms are undertaken to enhance transparency. In that regard, I welcome measures such as the passage of the code of conduct for civil servants, and would urge the implementation of complementary policies to address the continued lack of accountability, including empowering the Anti-Corruption Commission to impose sanctions.

95. At this juncture, we must reimagine the role of the United Nations in Liberia, with UNMIL enhancing its focus on core political and security tasks. I therefore recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of UNMIL for one year, until 30 September 2015, while supplementing the political role played by my Special Representative with an explicit good offices mandate, which would focus on facilitating national reconciliation and political reform, and an environment conducive to peaceful and transparent elections, which includes due attention to the rule of law. I also recommend that the mission be mandated to provide logistical support for the October 2014 senatorial elections, limited to facilitating access to

remote areas. United Nations support for subsequent electoral processes would focus on supporting the coordination of international assistance, to ensure coherence, as well as national capacity-building.

96. Though Liberia no longer faces any apparent military threat, national security institutions are still working to develop their capacity to maintain stability and protect the population without support from a peacekeeping operation. I would therefore recommend the drawdown of UNMIL uniformed personnel, as elaborated in paragraphs 73 and 78 of the present report, resulting in an authorized strength of 3,631 military and 1,515 police personnel by mid-2015. The primary focus of UNMIL would be protecting civilians within its capabilities and areas of deployment.

97. Looking ahead to the sensitive period that Liberia will enter in 2017, I further recommend that the security transition conclude by mid-2016, at which point the Government should fully assume security responsibility throughout the entire country. UNMIL would therefore draw down to one battalion and appropriate enablers, or some 1,500 troops, by mid-2016, which would remain until the withdrawal of the mission. I welcome resolution 2162 (2014), authorizing the establishment within UNOCI of a regional quick reaction force that could deploy in Liberia in the event of a serious deterioration of security, as well as its approval to use all UNMIL and UNOCI military aviation assets in both countries. However, Liberia will require long-term support for sustaining its institutions, and should explore options for bilateral or regional partnerships in preparation for the withdrawal of UNMIL.

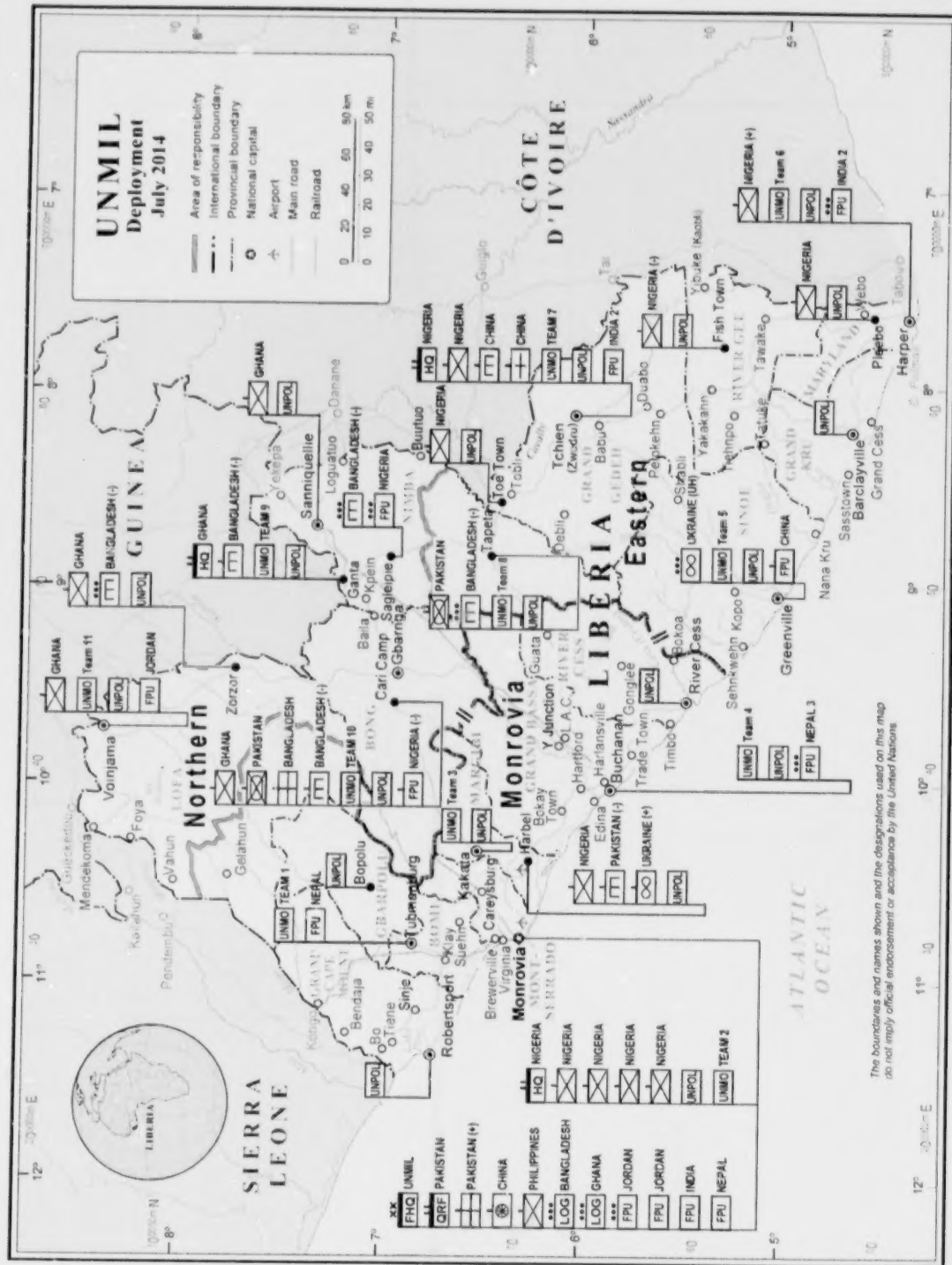
98. I wish to express my appreciation to my Special Representative for Liberia, Karin Landgren, and all United Nations civilian and uniformed personnel for their commitment to peace in Liberia. I am also grateful to troop- and police-contributing countries, the African Union, ECOWAS, the Mano River Union and other regional organizations, multilateral and bilateral partners, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, non-governmental organizations and other partners for supporting the consolidation of peace in Liberia.

Annex

United Nations Mission in Liberia: military and police strength as at 1 August 2014

Country	Military component				Formed police units	Civilian police
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total		
Argentina	0	0	0	0		12
Bangladesh	13	7	508	528		15
Benin	1	1	0	2		0
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	2	1	0	3		0
Bosnia and Herzegovina	0	0	0	0		9
Brazil	2	2	0	4		0
Bulgaria	1	0	0	1		0
China	2	6	558	566	140	19
Croatia	0	2	0	2		0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0		0
Denmark	3	2	0	5		0
Ecuador	2	1	0	3		0
Egypt	7	0	0	7		5
El Salvador	2	0	0	2		2
Ethiopia	9	4	0	13		0
Fiji	0	0	0	0		27
Finland	1	3	0	4		0
Gambia	1	0	0	1		16
Germany	0	0	0	0		5
Ghana	9	9	693	711		30
India	0	0	0	0	243	7
Indonesia	1	0	0	1		0
Jamaica	0	0	0	0		0
Jordan	1	5	0	6	234	13
Kenya	0	2	0	2		24
Kyrgyzstan	3	0	0	3		4
Lithuania	0	0	0	0		1
Malaysia	6	0	0	6		0
Mali	0	0	0	0		0
Mongolia	0	0	0	0		0
Montenegro	1	0	0	1		0
Namibia	0	3	0	3		3
Nepal	2	3	15	20	260	16
Niger	1	0	0	1		0

Country	Military component				Formed police units	Civilian police
	Military observers	Staff officers	Troops	Total		
Nigeria	13	7	1 397	1 417	120	16
Norway	0	0	0	0		7
Pakistan	9	8	890	907		0
Paraguay	2	1	0	3		0
Peru	2	1	0	3		0
Philippines	2	1	114	117		29
Poland	1	0	0	1		3
Republic of Korea	1	1	0	2		3
Republic of Moldova	2	0	0	2		2
Romania	2	0	0	2		4
Russian Federation	3	0	0	3		10
Rwanda	0	0	0	0		5
Samoa	0	0	0	0		0
Senegal	0	2	0	2		0
Serbia	4	0	0	4		6
Sri Lanka	0	0	0	0		15
Sweden	0	0	0	0		14
Switzerland	0	0	0	0		2
Thailand	0	0	0	0		3
Togo	2	1	0	3		0
Turkey	0	0	0	0		17
Uganda	0	0	0	0		14
Ukraine	2	2	206	210		19
United States of America	4	5	0	9		4
Uruguay	0	0	0	0		3
Yemen	0	1	0	1		9
Zambia	3	0	0	3		16
Zimbabwe	2	0	0	2		30
Total	124	81	4 381	4 586	997	437



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
15 August 2014

Original: English

**Letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to
the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to enclose herewith, for your information, a note verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation regarding the Russian Federation's attempts to establish its national jurisdiction over Ukrainian nuclear facilities, installations and materials located in the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, extending the agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of 21 February 1985 to the objects mentioned above.

In this regard, we insist that all nuclear facilities, installations and materials in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol remain Ukraine's property. Hence, their legal status, standard operating procedures, use and maintenance are regulated by Ukraine's national legislation, as well as by the provisions of the agreement between Ukraine and IAEA on the application of guarantees under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons dated 21 September 1995 and the additional protocol to the above-mentioned agreement dated 15 August 2000.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Oleksandr Pavlichenko
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and expresses hereby its strong protest to the Russian Federation over its attempts to establish its national jurisdiction over Ukrainian nuclear facilities, installations and materials located in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, extending the agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of 21 February 1985 to the above objects.

The Ukrainian side insists that all nuclear facilities, installations and materials in the territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol constitute Ukraine's property. Hence, their legal status, standard operating procedures, use and maintenance are regulated by Ukraine's national legislation, as well as by the provisions of the agreement between Ukraine and IAEA on the application of guarantees under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons dated 21 September 1995 and the additional protocol to the above-mentioned agreement dated 15 August 2000.

In this regard, the Russian side's attempts to commit any act aimed at changing unilaterally national jurisdiction of the Ukrainian nuclear facilities located in the territory of Ukraine temporarily occupied by Russia are null and void.

The actions of the Russian Federation, as a nuclear power, pose a direct threat to the international order established by the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1 July 1968, which Ukraine accessed as a non-nuclear power, having accepted, in accordance with article 3 of the Treaty, relevant guarantees identified by the agreement between Ukraine and IAEA on the application of guarantees under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the additional protocol to the above-mentioned agreement.

The Ukrainian side also underlines that, in the territory of Ukraine, including the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, it is not acceptable to deploy nuclear weapons and convert nuclear materials and facilities for military purposes, including the DR-100 research reactor and other nuclear installations of the Sevastopol National University of Nuclear Energy and Industry.

Therefore, the Ukrainian side warns the Russian side against taking any action violating the nuclear-weapon-free status of the part of the territory of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, extending the agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and IAEA of 21 February 1985 to the nuclear facilities and materials mentioned above.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
15 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 13 August 2014 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I refer to Security Council resolution 2048 (2012), by which the Council requested me to submit reports every 90 days on the implementation of all the elements of the resolution, as well as on the humanitarian situation in Guinea-Bissau.

In the light of the successful return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, which was the main target set by the Security Council in its resolution 2048 (2012), I recommend, for the consideration of the Council, that my upcoming report submitted pursuant to the aforementioned resolution be the last one.

Any future updates on the remaining elements of resolution 2048 (2012), including paragraph 3, as well as broader issues relevant to the consolidation of constitutional order, would be provided every six months in my regular reports on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, while oral briefings to the Security Council will continue to be provided, as and when required.

I would be grateful if the Security Council would give consideration to my request.

(Signed) **BAN Ki-moon**





Security Council

Distr.: General
15 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 15 August 2014 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 13 August 2014 (S/2014/600) concerning your reports submitted pursuant to resolution 2048 (2012) has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

The members of the Council have taken note of the request contained in your letter that your upcoming report be the last one and that further updates be provided every six months in your regular reports on the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, while oral briefings to the Council will continue to be provided, as and when required.

(Signed) Mark Lyall Grant
President of the Security Council



**Security Council**

Distr.: General
18 August 2014

Original: English

**Letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the
Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to
the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to respectfully bring to your attention the information on continued acts of shelling of the territory of Ukraine from the Russian Federation, Ukraine's airspace violations by Russian military helicopters and air drones, as well as the flow of armaments from Russia to Ukraine.

Please find enclosed copies of the texts of notes verbales from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, along with their English translation, listing concrete facts of such blatant violations (see annexes). To our great disappointment, the appeals contained therein remain disregarded by the Russian Federation.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Oleksandr Pavlichenko
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex I to the letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the
United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and expresses its resolute protest over the continued acts of aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine, including shelling of the territory and violation of the airspace of Ukraine from the Russian Federation's side.

On 1 August 2014, the Ukrainian armed forces positions near the border checkpoints of Dovzhanskyi and Diakove, in the Luhansk region, were repeatedly shelled. The settlement of Amvrosiivka was also shelled by artillery strikes from the territory of Russia, which resulted in casualties among civilians.

On the same day, five Russian MI-8, MI-24 and KA-52 helicopters violated Ukrainian airspace near the settlements of Yuganivka, Krasna Talivka and Shiroke, in the Luhansk region. A Russian air drone violated Ukrainian airspace near the border checkpoint of Dovzhanskyi.

On 2 August 2014, two Russian MI-24 helicopters and one air drone violated Ukrainian airspace near the settlement of Blagovishenka, in the Luhansk region.

Ukraine is deeply concerned with the arrangement of firing positions of the Russian armed forces immediately alongside the Ukrainian-Russian state border. Grad rocket systems, Osa anti-aircraft complexes and air drones were deployed in the settlements of Malokaterynovka and Ekaterynovka, in the Russian Federation.

On the same day, positions of the Ukrainian border guard deployed near the villages of Stanytsya Luganska and the checkpoint of Chervonopartyzansk were shelled from the settlements of Mytykiyanske and Hutir Manotskyi, in the Russian Federation.

An act of violation of Ukraine's airspace by an air drone coming from the territory of Russia was detected near the settlement of Blagovishenka, in the Luhansk region.

On 3 August 2014, the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces were shelled from the territory of Russia near the settlement of Dyakove, in the Luhansk region.

On the same day, four MI-24 helicopters violated Ukraine's air space near the settlements of Zolotarivka and Gerasymivka, in the Luhansk region.

The Ukrainian side resolutely insists on an immediate and complete cessation of the shellfire of the territory of Ukraine from Russian territory, as well as the supply of weaponry and other support of the terrorist organizations aimed at destabilizing the situation in Ukraine, and demands that the Russian Federation provide an adequate level of security along the Ukrainian-Russian state border.

Kyiv, 4 August 2014

**Annex II to the letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the
United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and expresses its resolute protest over the continuation of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.

On 7 August 2014, Ukrainian military units deployed in the south-eastern part of the Luhansk region were repeatedly shelled from the territory of Russia.

On that same day, once the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe mission had adjourned its work at the checkpoint of Milove, in the Luhansk region, and its representatives had returned to Russia, the checkpoint and the settlement of Milove were shelled from the territory of Russia.

Within the past 24 hours, five Russian air drones conducting reconnaissance flights in the area of the seaport of Mariupol, as well as in the areas of the settlements of Henichesk and Chervonyi Chaban, in the Kherson region, of Berdyansk, in the Zaporizhzhya region, and of Senkivka, in the Chernihiv region, were spotted.

The transportation of 15 multiple-launch Grad rocket systems from the territory of Russia and their deployment in the territory of Ukraine was detected near the city of Krasny Luch, in the Luhansk region.

The Ukrainian side resolutely insists on an immediate cessation of shelling of the territory of Ukraine from the territory of Russia, armament supply and other support of the terrorist organizations in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and demands that the Russian Federation ensure proper protection of the Ukrainian-Russian state border.

Kyiv, 8 August 2014

Annex III to the letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and expresses its resolute protest over the continuation of Russia's systematic acts of aggression against Ukraine.

On 9 August 2014, Ukrainian armed forces positions deployed near the settlements of Ambrosiivka, in the Donetsk region, of Bilovodsk, Derkulske and Yuganivka, in the Luhansk region, as well as of the settlement of Illinka, also in the Donetsk region, and of Dyakove, Miusynsk and Petropavlivka, also in the Luhansk region, were shelled with artillery and mortars from the territory of Russia.

On 10 August 2014, positions of the armed forces of Ukraine near the settlement of Vasylivka, in the Donetsk region, were shelled from the territory of the Russian Federation, which resulted in the killing of four and the wounding of five Ukrainian border guards. On the same day, positions of the border guards of Ukraine near the settlements of Ivanivka, Krasna Talivka, Milove and Stanichno-Luhanske, in the Luhansk region, were shelled with artillery from the Russian territory.

On 11 August 2014, as a result of massive shelling from the Russian territory using multiple-launch Grad rocket systems, the settlement of Stepanivka, in the Donetsk region, was destroyed. A border checkpoint at Uspenka, in the Donetsk region, was shelled by mortar fire, resulting in injuries to one border guard.

On 9 August 2014, two Russian MI-24 military helicopters violated Ukrainian airspace near the settlement of Blagovishenka, in the Luhansk region.

Acts of Ukrainian airspace violations by Russian drones in the area of the settlements of Komisarivka, Kairka, Makarivka, Pershokonstantynivka and Chervonyi Chaban, in the Kherson region, of Novopetrivka and Berdyansk, in the Zaporozhskiy region, of Mariupol, in the Donetsk region, of Krasna Talivka and Milove, in the Luhansk region, as well as in Arbat Strilka, were detected daily throughout the period from 8 to 11 August 2014.

Russian military vehicles' accumulation across the Ukrainian border is continuing. In particular, units of the Pskov air assault division and of a tank regiment of the Russian armed forces are deployed across the Ukrainian-Russian state border near the settlements of Veydelevka and Rovenky, in the Voronezh region of the Russian Federation. Russian battalion tactical groups comprised of the 32nd and 35th motorized infantry brigades and the 120th artillery brigade are currently being deployed in the territory of the Bryansk region of the Russian Federation.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine resolutely demands that the Russian side immediately put an end to the artillery shelling of the Ukrainian territory from the Russian territory and the regular violations of the Ukrainian airspace by the Russian air forces and remove the armed forces from the border.

Kyiv, 11 August 2014

**Annex IV to the letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the
United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and expresses its resolute protest over the continuation of the systematic acts of Russian aggression against Ukraine.

On 11 August 2014, an artillery and mortar strike was conducted from the territory of the Russian Federation against the positions of the armed forces of Ukraine near the settlements of Komishne and Krasna Talivka, in the Luhansk region.

On the same day, a Russian MI-24 military helicopter violated the airspace of Ukraine near the settlement of Milove, in the Luhansk region.

Russian drones violated Ukraine's airspace near the settlements of Chaplynka and Shevchenko, in the Kherson region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine resolutely demands that the Russian side immediately stop artillery shelling of the territory of Ukraine, provocations along the Ukrainian-Russian state border, as well as support of the terrorists and fighters in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

Kyiv, 12 August 2014

**Annex V to the letter dated 15 August 2014 from the Chargé
d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the
United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and expresses its resolute protest over the continuation of the systematic artillery shelling of the territory of Ukraine from the territory of the Russian Federation and provocations along the Ukrainian-Russian state border aimed at destabilizing the situation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

On 12 August 2014, artillery strikes were conducted from the territory of the Russian Federation against the positions of the armed forces of Ukraine, including near the settlements of Komishne and Krasna Talivka, in the Luhansk region; the state border checkpoint at Uspenka, in the Donetsk region, was shelled twice.

A half hour prior to the shelling of the positions of the Ukrainian armed forces, a Russian drone conducting a reconnaissance flight was spotted near the settlement of Krasna Talivka.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine resolutely demands that the Russian side put an end to acts of aggression, immediately stop artillery shelling of the territory of Ukraine, provocations along the Ukrainian-Russian state border, as well as support of the terrorists and fighters in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine.

Kyiv, 13 August 2014

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
18 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the restoration of and respect for constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau**I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolutions 2048 (2012) and 2103 (2013), and covers major political, security, human rights, humanitarian and socioeconomic developments in Guinea-Bissau since my reports of 12 May 2014 (S/2014/332 and S/2014/333).

II. Restoration of and respect for constitutional order**A. Political situation****1. Overview of the political situation in the country**

2. During the reporting period, the key political developments in Guinea-Bissau included the successful completion of the second round of presidential elections, the opening of the first session of the elected Parliament, the swearing-in of the new President of the Republic and the appointment of the new Prime Minister and his Cabinet.

3. On 18 May, the second round of the presidential election was conducted in a peaceful manner. There were no reports of major technical or logistical shortcomings. The alleged beating of 14 members of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) by unidentified individuals, on the night before the election in the central city of Bafatá, and the alleged threats against the party's Third Vice-President, Mr. Baciro Djá, on the eve of the polling, did not discourage the people of Guinea-Bissau from casting their votes. With the participation of 78.2 per cent of eligible voters, the people demonstrated their commitment to democratic values and to the restoration of constitutional order in their country.

4. On 20 May, the President of the National Electoral Commission, Judge Augusto Mendes, announced that José Mário Vaz of PAIGC had obtained 61.9 per cent of the vote in the run-off election, while Nuno Gomes Nabiam, the independent candidate, had received 38.1 per cent. Although Nuno Gomes Nabiam initially rejected the provisional results, he eventually declared during a press conference on



22 May that he would accept them for the “sake of peace, stability and higher interests of the country”. He also asked his supporters to respect his decision.

5. In their preliminary statements issued on 19 and 20 May, the international election observer missions of the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) assessed that the election had been free, fair, transparent and credible. In its recommendations, ECOWAS urged development partners to expedite the lifting of sanctions imposed on the country and to join it in extending financial and technical support to the country for post-election reconstruction and development.

6. On 21 May, PAIGC and the Social Renewal Party (PRS) issued a joint communiqué confirming their intention to (i) reinforce their relations; (ii) work towards reaching consensus on a national reconciliation programme; (iii) abide by the principle of “forgiveness in favour of reconciliation” and advocate for the competent State institutions to grant amnesty to those behind the coup of 2012; (iv) promote respect for, and the “dignified” treatment of, the defence and security forces, especially within the framework of security sector reform; and (v) provide guarantees that the people of Guinea-Bissau will not be persecuted or threatened.

7. On 23 May, the final results of the presidential election were published in the Official Gazette, confirming the provisional figures announced by the National Electoral Commission on 20 May. This officially concluded the 2014 electoral process.

8. Some 102 newly elected parliamentarians were sworn in on 17 June in the presence of the Transitional Prime Minister, the President of the Supreme Court, the President of the National Electoral Commission, representatives of political parties and civil society organizations, religious leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, my Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), José Ramos-Horta, and the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Luís Campos Ferreira. The ceremony marked the opening of the ninth legislature for the period from 2014 to 2018. The new parliamentarians elected Cipriano Cassamá of PAIGC as President of the National Assembly. They also elected Inácio Gomes Correia of PAIGC as First Vice-President; Alberto Nambeia, the President of PRS, as Second Vice-President; Serifo Djala of PRS as First Secretary; and Dam Yala Nanka Baranção of PAIGC as Second Secretary.

9. In his inaugural speech as President of the National Assembly, Mr. Cassamá appealed to the international community to deliver on its pledges to support Guinea-Bissau. He praised the role played by ECOWAS in supporting his country, including through the deployment of a stabilization force, the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB), and expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by Timor-Leste. He called for the creation of an ethics committee within the National Assembly, to make Parliament more accountable to the citizens, adding that the National Assembly needed to take on its responsibilities for the equitable exploitation of natural resources and the protection of the environment. Finally, he called for national unity and proposed the reactivation of the Reconciliation Commission of the National Assembly.

10. From 27 May to 19 June, prior to his swearing-in ceremony, President-elect José Mário Vaz visited Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea, Nigeria, Portugal, Senegal and Togo, where he met with the respective Heads of State. He also met with the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão, in Bissau on 7 June. On 23 June, he was sworn in at the National Stadium in Bissau, in the presence of 11 Heads of State from the West Africa subregion.

11. In his inaugural address, President Vaz thanked the countries of the subregion and international organizations for their support to Guinea-Bissau during the transition. He underlined his commitment to respect the country's Constitution and laws, eradicate poverty, put an end to instability and fight corruption. In addition, he pledged to ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and promote reforms in the public administration, justice, defence and security sectors through a strategic partnership with the new Government.

12. Following talks with all political parties represented in Parliament, President Vaz appointed Domingos Simões Pereira, the President of PAIGC, as the new Prime Minister on 25 June. Upon his appointment, Mr. Simões Pereira told the media that the political environment in the country had significantly improved although there were challenges that could be tackled only with the support of the international community and increased accountability within the new administration. He reaffirmed that, irrespective of the PAIGC majority in the National Assembly, he would continue to reach out to PRS and other parties. He also expressed his commitment to "walk the path of dialogue towards national reconciliation" and to consider mechanisms that would enable the nation to move forward in unity. On 28 June, he led a march of thousands of people, mostly youth, calling for "genuine national reconciliation".

13. On 3 July, Mr. Simões Pereira was sworn in as Prime Minister at the Presidential Palace. In his speech, the new Prime Minister recalled that the country needed "order, discipline and work", and announced that he would promote inclusiveness and work to achieve consensus on major national issues. He highlighted a number of priority areas, including good governance, transparency, protection of the environment and the rational use of natural resources, as well as the promotion of socioeconomic development and of good relations with neighbouring countries, subregional organizations, financial institutions, and the international community as a whole.

14. On 4 July, on the basis of recommendations received from the Prime Minister, President Vaz issued a decree appointing a 31-member Cabinet, including 16 Ministers, 5 of whom are women, and 15 Secretaries of State including one woman. The new Cabinet has 19 members from PAIGC, six from PRS, and one each from the United Social Democratic Party, the Democratic Convergence Party and the Union for Change Party. Two Ministers and one Secretary of State have no declared party affiliation.

15. On 10 July, the Prime Minister chaired the first meeting of the new Council of Ministers. During the meeting, he emphasized his commitment to respect the rule of law, uphold the public interest, and promote inclusive dialogue to ensure broad-based consensus on key national issues. The meeting concluded with decisions to pay two months of salary to civil servants, to temporarily suspend timber exports in order to prioritize the shipment of cashew nuts, and to extend the public school year until August.

2. Overview of the human rights situation in the country

16. During the reporting period, no significant progress was made towards human rights protection and greater accountability for previous human rights violations in the country.

17. On 17 May, on the eve of the second round of presidential elections, 14 members of PAIGC, including the President of the Bafatá Regional Political Bureau, the party's campaign director and three of its newly-elected parliamentarians, were allegedly attacked by unidentified individuals at different locations close to the city of Bafatá. The victims, four of whom were women, were travelling in three separate groups to deploy election monitors and materials to different regional polling stations. The majority of the victims received medical treatment in Bafatá and Bissau. PAIGC issued a communiqué on 18 May condemning the violence and asking the people of Guinea-Bissau not to be intimidated. The case was reported to the regional authorities, the joint command in charge of election security and to ECOMIB. No suspects have been identified or charged.

18. On 9 June, the Prosecutor General, Abdu Mané, tendered his resignation to the Transitional President, Manuel Serifo Nhamadjo, citing an "inability" to work with the President-elect. Mr. Mané had petitioned the Supreme Court, on 6 March 2014, to disqualify Mr. Vaz as the PAIGC presidential candidate, on the grounds that a criminal investigation had been conducted into corrupt activities allegedly committed by Mr. Vaz in February 2013. The Supreme Court had subsequently concluded that Mr. Vaz was entitled to full political rights, stating there were no legal impediments to his running in the elections.

3. Regional and international efforts towards the restoration of and respect for constitutional order

19. At a meeting of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission on 12 May, my Special Representative for Guinea-Bissau and Head of UNIOGBIS briefed members of the configuration on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. He underlined the need for the newly elected Government to adopt a new approach to address the root causes of instability. He also emphasized the important role of the international community in the mobilization of financial and technical resources for the country.

20. On 14 May, the configuration issued a statement to the press welcoming the successful conduct of the legislative elections and the first round of the presidential election, which were held on 13 April, and commending the people of Guinea-Bissau for a high turnout and for the peaceful manner in which they had exercised their democratic rights. In another press statement issued on 12 June, the configuration reiterated its view that the holding of the elections was a fundamental step towards the restoration of constitutional order and for the resumption of full cooperation with the international community. The configuration also reiterated its willingness to work with the elected authorities in the review of the peacebuilding strategic priorities for Guinea-Bissau and to help in addressing the urgent needs of the country. It also reiterated its call to all political and military stakeholders to continue to heed the voice of the people of Guinea-Bissau and to work in a spirit of dialogue to uphold civilian rule.

21. In a communiqué issued following the extraordinary session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government held on 30 May in Accra, the ECOWAS leaders encouraged the new Government to adopt an "all-inclusive governance system" to forge national consensus and enable the mobilization of national stakeholders to implement "urgent" post-election programmes. The ECOWAS leaders also urged the new authorities of Guinea-Bissau to adopt and implement a comprehensive reform agenda, with the assistance of ECOWAS and the international community, encompassing national dialogue and reconciliation, economic recovery, reform of State institutions, and processes to sustain the stabilization and recovery efforts.

22. From 6 to 10 June, the Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Xanana Gusmão, visited Guinea-Bissau, where he met with the President-elect and the Prime Minister-elect. He also held consultations with the Transitional President, the President of the National Assembly, the Transitional Prime Minister, and the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces, as well as representatives of police and security forces, political parties, civil society organizations and ECOWAS. Prime Minister Gusmão extended an invitation to the President-elect and the Prime Minister-elect to participate in the tenth Conference of Heads of State and Government of CPLP, which was held in Dili on 23 July.

23. On 17 June, the African Union lifted the suspension of Guinea-Bissau from the activities of the Organization, paving the way for the country to participate in the 23rd ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, which was held in Malabo from 20 to 27 June. In its decision following the summit in Malabo, the African Union appealed to the international community to enhance its support to Guinea-Bissau, while urging bilateral and multilateral partners to seize the opportunity of a donors round table late in 2014 to provide the country with the necessary financial and economic support. Similarly, in a press communiqué issued on 27 June, the International Organization of la Francophonie announced its decision to reintegrate Guinea-Bissau into its activities and statutory bodies.

24. On 14 July, the Council of the European Union issued a statement announcing the suspension of measures limiting the European Union's cooperation with Guinea-Bissau following the holding of "free and credible" elections. The announcement was made after the visit of a European Union technical mission to Guinea-Bissau from 7 to 11 July. On the same day, the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Catherine Ashton, expressed satisfaction with the decision on the grounds that it enabled the European Union "to support the newly elected authorities towards the reconstruction and stabilization of the State". On 23 July, at its tenth Conference of Heads of State and Government held in Dili, CPLP readmitted Guinea-Bissau into the organization.

25. On 10 July, President Vaz, along with the new Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Defence, attended the 45th ordinary session of the ECOWAS Authority of Heads of State and Government in Accra. ECOWAS leaders encouraged the new Government to adopt and implement a comprehensive reform agenda, which should encompass national dialogue and reconciliation, economic recovery, and the reform of the governance and political institutions to sustain the country's stabilization and recovery efforts. They pledged assistance for resource mobilization efforts, including through the holding of a donors conference. They also decided to create a

special emergency support fund for Guinea-Bissau, and appealed to ECOWAS member States and development partners to contribute to the fund. Moreover, the leaders agreed to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the defence and security sector reform programme by enhancing the human, financial and logistical capacities of the Office of the ECOWAS Special Representative in Guinea-Bissau. Finally, they instructed the ECOWAS Commission to review the mandate of ECOMIB by 31 December 2014, in close consultation with the Government of Guinea-Bissau and other international partners.

4. Efforts towards a democratic electoral process

26. During the period under review, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led the international community's technical support for the elections. It assisted the National Electoral Commission and its regional structures in carrying out information, sensitization and civic education programmes, as well as in conducting the operational and logistical preparations for the polling process, including the procurement of election materials. Both logistical and technical conditions were in place by the polling day.

27. Multilateral and bilateral partners, including the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie, UMEOA, Timor-Leste, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, deployed over 270 election observers to monitor the second round of the presidential election.

28. Notwithstanding the lack of provision for domestic election observers, three main groups of civil society organizations monitored different aspects of the electoral process. The groups were Acção Cidadã ("Citizens Action"), which focused on monitoring the election campaigns and the polling process; the Peace and Security Network for Women in the ECOWAS region, which focused on monitoring women's participation in the electoral process; and the Civil Society Committee Monitoring the Electoral Code of Conduct, which focused on the compliance of candidates with the code that was signed by presidential candidates and political parties on 20 March. The groups also informally deployed their members to polling stations during the run-off election to observe the conduct of the elections.

B. Security situation

29. During the reporting period, the security situation remained relatively stable. ECOMIB troops reached a total strength of 850 personnel, following the deployment of an armoured formed police unit from Burkina Faso to Guinea-Bissau on 10 May.

30. UNIOGBIS co-located one police officer and one military adviser with the joint command of the Ministers of the Interior and Defence of the Transitional Government, which was established to monitor the implementation of the national electoral security plan for 2014. The security protection of the former National Electoral Commission building, which was used as a warehouse for electoral material, was withdrawn only on 28 May following a decision of the joint command. The joint command provided close protection to the President of the Electoral Commission, the elected President and Prime Minister, as well as the

transitional authorities and government institutions until its official dissolution on 5 July.

31. On 2 June, the Secretary-General of INTERPOL, Ronald Noble, visited Bissau along with my Special Representative for West Africa and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa, Said Djinnit, within the framework of the West Africa Coast Initiative. They held meetings with the Minister of Justice of the Transitional Government, the National Central Bureau of INTERPOL, the Transnational Crime Unit, the joint command, and the High Council for Policing and Internal Security Coordination. At a press conference in Bissau following the visit, Mr. Noble praised Guinea-Bissau's law enforcement agencies for their dedication and highlighted the important role they had played in creating an environment conducive to a peaceful electoral process in the country. He also underlined the importance for Guinea-Bissau and other countries in the subregion to work with the international community to fight drug trafficking and transnational organized crime.

32. In a letter dated 6 July, the European Union delegation in Guinea-Bissau informed the new Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation that General Melciades Fernandes, a former Chief of Staff of the Guinea-Bissau Air Force, had voluntarily left the European Union premises in Bissau that day. General Fernandes had sought refuge at the European Union premises for 21 months following the coup d'état of 2012. Speaking to the Portuguese news agency LUSA and the Portuguese News Network (PNN) shortly after leaving the premises on 6 July, the General expressed his gratitude to the European Union representatives for their support and assistance. In an interview with PNN on the same day, the new Secretary of State for Public Order expressed the view that the departure of General Fernandes from the European Union premises was "the result of the return to constitutional order in the country".

III. Socioeconomic and humanitarian situation

33. The socioeconomic and humanitarian situation in the country remained fragile during the period under review. The weak capacities of the Government for fiscal revenue collection, in conjunction with the extended suspension of budgetary support by Guinea-Bissau's development partners, significantly affected the State's ability to meet its basic obligations, including the delivery of social services.

34. The second quarter of 2014 was marked by trade union protests and strikes due, inter alia, to the non-payment of salaries. The strikes virtually paralysed public administration and had an extremely detrimental impact on the education and health sectors. The cumulative effect of strikes in the education sector caused the overall loss of 28 per cent of school days in the 2013/14 academic year.

35. As at 11 June, Guinea-Bissau had exported only 10,000 tons of cashew nuts of the 70,000 tons stored in warehouses. While the pace of export was markedly slow compared to the same period in 2013, available data showed that the harvest and sale of cashew nuts in 2014 has been relatively good. The average price per kg paid to producers varied from CFAF 330 to CFAF 335 compared to the base price of CFAF 250 set by the Transitional Government.

36. No cases of the Ebola virus were reported in Guinea-Bissau since the outbreak in neighbouring Guinea. UNICEF, the World Health Organization and other partners continued to provide support for strengthening epidemiological surveillance. With the support of those parties, an emergency "hotline" was activated at the Ministry of Health. Moreover, weekly joint field missions were conducted to the most vulnerable regions of the country to maintain the alert while the surveillance, capacity-building and community awareness programmes continued to be implemented.

37. During the reporting period, three cholera deaths were recorded by health centres in the town of Calaque, in the southern region of Tombali. UNICEF and its partners provided the centres with basic medical supplies, technical support and capacity-building training for treating and preventing cholera. Cholera prevention and awareness-raising interventions were conducted in the most vulnerable communities and households in the region.

38. On 30 May, the World Bank approved \$22.5 million (\$17.2 million in credit loans and \$5.3 million in grants) to support the emergency water and electricity services upgrading project for Guinea-Bissau. The aim of the project was to restore and increase the population's access to safe drinking water and to improve the reliability of electricity in Bissau.

39. On 12 June, UNDP commenced the delivery of one million life-saving bednets, as part of a national awareness campaign to help communities to combat malaria. The \$5.8 million campaign was financed by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and is expected to further reduce the number of malaria-induced deaths.

IV. Observations

40. The high voter turnout in the second round of the presidential election, as well as the peaceful and orderly conduct of the poll, demonstrated the determination of the people of Guinea-Bissau to restore constitutional order to their country. I commend all the people of Guinea-Bissau for their remarkable sense of civic duty throughout the electoral process and for their commitment to ending the transition through peaceful and democratic means.

41. I would like to reiterate my appreciation to the international partners of Guinea-Bissau, including the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS and the European Union, as well as to Member States, for their financial, technical and security assistance, and continued engagement and dedication to ensuring a coordinated and appropriate international response to the crisis in the country.

42. The swearing-in of the President and new parliamentarians of the Republic, as well as the appointment of the new Prime Minister and his Cabinet, all of whom are now in office, have marked the return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau. Continued support to and respect for the preservation of constitutional order will be critical to enable the country to enjoy sustainable political stability and lasting peace.

43. I call on the newly elected authorities to foster respect for constitutional order and for the rule of law by promoting and practising accountable governance, fighting corruption and illegal trafficking, establishing harmonious civil-military

relations, and ensuring the respect of human rights for all. This is an opportunity for the country to write a new page of its history, in which coups d'état have no place.

44. I am encouraged by the new administration's commitment to fostering inclusive dialogue and promoting national reconciliation. I encourage all political stakeholders to take this path as the country focuses on setting and implementing its key national priorities. I note the pledges made by President Vaz and Prime Minister Simões Pereira to strive for national reconciliation through dialogue and explore all mechanisms for that purpose. As the authorities of Guinea-Bissau earnestly engage in a national reconciliation dialogue in the coming months, the United Nations remains ready to provide advice, including on international human rights protection standards and the fight against impunity.

45. The new Government has inherited a difficult socioeconomic situation with limited State resources. Nevertheless, it should aim at providing tangible improvements in the lives of the population, including by ensuring uninterrupted salary payments to civil servants, completion of the school year, recovery of agricultural production including in the cashew sector and a regular supply of water and electricity. I appeal to international partners to provide substantial support, in the short term, to assist the new administration in delivering on its obligations and providing social services. Any delays in such immediate support may hamper Guinea-Bissau's effort to consolidate peace.

46. In the medium to long term, it would be essential for Guinea-Bissau's authorities to pursue fiscal sustainability and to attract international investment. A programme with clear goals for the country's stability and development should be the centrepiece of the forthcoming donor pledging conference, which is expected to be organized by the end of 2014, in close collaboration with the United Nations and Guinea-Bissau partners.

47. The presence of natural resources in Guinea-Bissau is not by itself enough to ensure the development of the country. It is equally important that the income generated from the exploitation of those resources be utilized for the benefit of the population rather than for a few individuals. This requires strong political will to put the public common good above personal interest. I welcome the commitment already expressed by the elected authorities to address these matters firmly. I call upon them to work closely with relevant private companies and investors, civil society organizations, Member States and international organizations to make transparency and sustainability in natural resource management a key national priority. I urge international partners and the United Nations to assist the country in implementing best transparency practices in this area, which would help to ensure the rational exploitation of natural resources, their sustainability and the protection of the environment.

48. While the security situation has improved over the past few months, the overall outlook remains fragile. The country will continue to count on the security assistance currently provided by ECOMIB. I take note of the recommendations made by the ECOWAS Heads of State and Government to review the mandate of ECOMIB by 31 December 2014. I also welcome their encouragement to the new Government to adopt and implement a comprehensive reform agenda with the assistance of ECOWAS and other international partners.

49. I will continue to be actively engaged in this process, consistent with paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 2048 (2012), in order to harmonize the positions of international partners, particularly the African Union, CPLP, ECOWAS and the European Union. I would also aim to ensure maximum coordination and complementarity of international efforts to develop a comprehensive and integrated strategy to implement security sector, political and economic reforms, as well as combating drug-trafficking and fighting impunity.

50. In the light of the successful return to constitutional order in Guinea-Bissau, which was the main target set by the Security Council in resolution 2048 (2012), I recommend, for the Council's consideration (as indicated in my letter dated 13 August 2014) that this report on the restoration of constitutional order in the country be the last one. Any future updates on the remaining aspects of the resolution, including paragraph 3, as well as broader issues relevant to the consolidation of constitutional order, would be provided every six months in my regular reports on UNIOGBIS, while oral briefings to the Security Council will continue to be provided, as and when required.

51. In conclusion, I wish to express my appreciation to the staff of UNIOGBIS and the United Nations country team, under the leadership of my former Special Representative, José Ramos-Horta, for their commitment and hard work. I am grateful to my former Special Representative for his leadership and passionate dedication to Guinea-Bissau, both of which were important enabling factors in the progress achieved to date. I also express my appreciation to the regional and international partners of Guinea-Bissau for their contributions to efforts to restore constitutional order and promote peace in the country.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
18 August 2014

Original: English

Letter dated 18 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued on 18 August 2014 by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and of a statement issued on 17 August 2014 by a spokesperson for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army with regard to the dangerous joint military exercises titled "Ulji Freedom Guardian", which are now being conducted by the United States and south Korea against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (see annexes).

The United States-south Korea joint military exercises, including the "Ulji Freedom Guardian", are by no means annual or routine exercises of a "defensive nature" but are real combat-like nuclear war games of aggression against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The "Ulji Freedom Guardian" exercises, in particular, are the largest war games in the world. The military forces involved in its size and nature are enough to carry out a full all-out war with a purpose of occupying Pyongyang, capital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, according to the war scenario drafted by the United States. This clearly shows the aggressive nature of the United States-south Korea joint military exercises against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

That is why the "Ulji Freedom Guardian" exercises should be regarded as a cancer-like root, which gravely undermines peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

Only when this cancer-like root is removed, peace and security, as well as the denuclearization of the whole Korean peninsula and the normalization of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States relationship will be ensured.

I would like to remind that I requested the Security Council on 21 July 2014 (see S/2014/512*) to urgently discuss the question of the United States-south Korea joint military exercises. However, the Security Council has so far ignored the request of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This only exposes the partiality and irresponsibility of the Security Council, which is manipulated by the high-handed pressure of the United States, and which is against the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.



The position of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is consistent that the Security Council should take its request into serious consideration and urgently undertake proper action to treat the cancer-like root for peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

Therefore, I again strongly request that the question of the United States-south Korea joint military exercises be placed on the agenda of the Security Council, and that a meeting of the Council be urgently held in accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Charter of the United Nations.

I also request that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, a representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea be allowed to participate in the meeting and to make a statement.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Ja Song Nam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I to the letter dated 18 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement issued on 18 August 2014 by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Pyongyang, August 18 (KCNA). A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea issued a statement on Monday assailing the United States and the south Korean puppet forces for kicking off the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercises against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The statement said:

The United States is becoming all the more undisguised in its criminal moves to disturb peace and ignite a nuclear war through a vicious cycle of tensions on the Korean peninsula and in the region.

The United States, together with the south Korean puppet forces, kicked off the Ulji Freedom Guardian military exercises against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea despite its repeated warnings and the serious concern of the international community.

The United States is staging ceaseless and ever larger-scale joint military exercises on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity several times a year. They are grave military provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and are unpardonable criminal acts of disturbance of peace and security.

In order to prevent the world public from focusing its criticism on the aggressive nature and danger of the joint military exercises, the United States is letting loose such sophism as describing them as "annual" and "defensive" exercises. They are, at the same time, terming countermeasures of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as "threat" and "provocation", like a thief crying, "Stop the thief!"

When the principled stand and efforts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to defuse tensions on the Korean peninsula and create a peaceful environment drew support and sympathy from those countries in the region at the recent ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum held in Myanmar, United States Secretary of State Kerry, at the talks between the diplomatic and defence chiefs of the United States and Australia held two days later, impudently blustered that the just, self-defensive steps of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are "wrecking stability in the whole region" and sparking off "serious concern".

On Friday, a deputy spokesperson of the United States Department of State and a spokesperson of the United States Department of Defense vied with each other to make such belligerent remarks that it would continue joint military exercises while terming the tactical rocket test-fire of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea a "threat".

Despicable, indeed, is the attitude of the United States authorities' resorting to foolish deceptive artifice and intrigues to justify their acts to perpetrate aggression and disturb peace.

It is an inveterate method of aggression of the United States to ignite a war while profoundly confusing right and wrong.

The United States has staged a total of more than 18,000 war manoeuvres of various forms for aggression in south Korea for more than six decades since the 1950s, but it claims they have never posed any threat to the north. But it contends that even a single test-fire and drill of tactical guided-missiles for self-defence conducted by the Korean People's Army to cope with them should be called into question. This is the American-style standard and is brigandish logic.

Joint military exercises staged in south Korea after the United States announced its new defense strategy are assuming a more aggressive nature, and their scale and frequency are steadily increasing, ranging from the largest-ever joint landing drill aimed to "occupy Pyongyang" to a drill for "breaking through the Military Demarcation Line" all of a sudden, a drill for "restoring administrative units after occupying the north" and a special operation drill for destroying the headquarters of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The United States announced that it would apply for the first time during the exercises a "tailored deterrence strategy", which calls for mounting a pre-emptive strike by mobilizing all forms of armed forces, including nuclear weapons, if a sign of "the use of nuclear weapons and missiles" is detected. This is another undisguised nuclear threat and blackmail.

The danger of the tensions on the Korean peninsula at present, together with the United States threat to mount a pre-emptive nuclear strike being rapidly put into practice, lies in that it is disturbing global peace and security far beyond the regional scale.

The joint military exercises being staged under the pretext of the "threat" from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are strictly pursuant to the United States strategy for world domination and to bring down the social system in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and with an eye to the Asian continent with the Korean peninsula as a bridgehead. This is a stark reality which no one can deny.

The United States armed build-up in northeast Asia, including the Korean peninsula, and the world's largest war manoeuvres will spark off a new arms race and Cold War.

The threat of one party is bound to trigger off retaliation from the other party, and a war is bound to break out in this course. This is a lesson that has been taught by history.

If one is weak, though one is very honest-minded and just, one is bound to fall victim to the strong, and a genuine peace is protected only when one is strong. This is the immutable logic reflected in the line of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in simultaneously developing the two fronts.

If the international community wants peace and stability in the region and the rest of the world, it should recognize the validity and inevitability of the self-defensive steps of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to protect the security of the country and nation and take issue with the provocative nuclear war drills of the United States and the south Korean puppet forces and hold them in check.

As long as the nuclear war manoeuvres go on to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by force, it will put its self-defensive counteraction on an annual and regular basis and take steps at a higher stage in the future which no one can predict.

Annex II to the letter dated 18 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement issued by a spokesperson for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army on 17 August 2014

Pyongyang, August 17 (KCNA). A spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army issued on Sunday a statement denouncing the United States and the south Korean puppet forces for setting about the Ulji Freedom Guardian joint military exercises again.

The statement said that the Ulji Freedom Guardian exercises were dangerous nuclear war drills aimed at mounting a surprise pre-emptive strike at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the deceptive signboard of "tailored deterrence" and adventurous ones to be staged under the simulated conditions of an actual war designed to ignite a "local and total war" any time under the pretext of non-existent "provocation".

The General Staff of the Korean People's Army clarified the principled retaliatory stand of the revolutionary armed forces of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cope with the war maniacs' reckless war moves against it, the statement said, and went on:

Now that the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet forces declared a war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by announcing their plan to apply the "tailored deterrence strategy" to an actual war, we reclarify that the Korean-style most powerful and advanced merciless pre-emptive strike will start any time chosen by us.

If we strike the United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet forces, they should be hit hard without any excuse, and if we are determined, large and small bases for aggression will be reduced to a sea of flames and ashes.

The projected war manoeuvres for aggression made clear the United States imperialists' scenario for their permanent presence in south Korea and brought the puppet authorities' sycophancy towards the United States and acts of treachery into bolder relief.

Under this situation, we unhesitatingly make public that our revolutionary armed forces will launch successive powerful physical offensives to resolutely terminate all this.

What we cannot overlook any longer is the United States imperialists' invariable attempt to establish their permanent presence in south Korea and the heinous acts of treachery of the puppet forces, modern-day five traitors of 1905.

Now that they have more openly revealed their attempt never to give up their sinister ambition to "bring down the social system in the north and occupy it" and "achieve unification through absorption" by putting the war manoeuvres "on a regular and annual basis", our revolutionary armed forces

will intensify their military counteraction for foiling them on a regular and annual basis.

Absolutely unpardonable are all crimes adding to the pent-up grudges of all Koreans under the pretext of "regular and annual drills".

The United States imperialists and the south Korean puppet forces will have to pay a dear price for their acts of going against the nation, reunification and peace, since they have reacted to all the peace initiatives and proposals made in good faith and magnanimity by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with extremely dangerous war manoeuvres.

They bitterly regretted that they fought a wrong war with a wrong rival and in the wrong time and place. They should never regard this as what happened in the Korean war.

They should bear in mind that our revolutionary armed forces are sure to emerge an eternal victor and that their enemies are fated to meet a miserable doom.

**Security Council**

Distr.: General
21 August 2014

Original: English

Australia, France, Chad, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous resolutions and statements of its President on prevention of armed conflict, preventive diplomacy, mediation and peaceful settlement of disputes, in particular resolutions 1366 (2001) and 1625 (2005), and the statements of its President of 22 February 1995 (S/PRST/1995/9), 30 November 1999 (S/PRST/1999/34), 20 July 2000 (S/PRST/2000/25), 13 May 2003 (S/PRST/2003/5), 20 September 2005 (S/PRST/2005/42), 21 April 2009 (S/PRST/2009/8), 22 September 2011 (S/PRST/2011/18), 15 April 2013 (S/PRST/2013/4),

Recalling the determination of the peoples of the United Nations, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights,

Recalling all Purposes and Principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and *acting* in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Security Council's continuing commitment to addressing the prevention of armed conflicts in all regions of the world,

Expressing its determination to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations in preventing and ending armed conflicts, their escalation, spread when they occur, and their resurgence once they end,

Recalling that the prevention of conflict remains a primary responsibility of States, and further recalling their primary responsibility to protect civilians and to respect and ensure the human rights of all individuals within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction, as provided for by relevant international law, and further, *reaffirming* the responsibility of each individual State to protect its populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity,

Acknowledging the role that civil society can play in contributing to conflict prevention,



Reiterating the need for a comprehensive approach to conflict prevention and sustainable peace, which comprises operational and structural measures for the prevention of armed conflict and addresses its root causes, including through strengthening the rule of law at international and national levels and promoting sustained economic growth, poverty eradication, social development, sustainable development, national reconciliation, good governance, democracy, gender equality and respect for, and protection of, human rights,

Calling attention to the importance of early awareness and consideration of situations which may deteriorate into armed conflicts and *emphasizing* that the United Nations, including the Security Council, should heed early warning indications of potential conflict and ensure prompt and effective action to prevent, contain or end conflicts, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Underlining the overriding moral, political and humanitarian imperatives as well as the economic advantages of preventing the outbreak, continuation, escalation or relapse into conflict,

Deeply concerned by the high human cost and suffering caused by armed conflicts, as well as the material and economic costs to the countries directly affected, the wider region and international community, including through the inclusive rebuilding of states and societies in the aftermath of armed conflict, and *recognizing* that peace, security and development are mutually reinforcing, including in the prevention of armed conflict,

Affirming that a comprehensive conflict prevention strategy should include, inter alia, early warning, preventive diplomacy, mediation, preventive deployment, peacekeeping, practical disarmament and other measures to contribute to combating the proliferation and illicit trade of arms, accountability measures as well as inclusive post-conflict peace-building, and *recognizing* that these components are interdependent, complementary and non-sequential,

Emphasizing the critical role of peacebuilding and the Peacebuilding Commission in support of countries emerging from conflict, in particular through the mobilization of sustained international support to critical national capacity needs,

Stressing the essential role of the Secretary-General in the prevention of armed conflict, including through early warning,

Stressing also the importance of the Secretary-General's efforts to enhance his role, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on "Preventive Diplomacy: Delivering Results" (S/2011/552) and the recommendations contained therein on steps to maximize the prospects of success in United Nations preventive diplomacy efforts,

Noting also that terrorism is an important element in an increasing number of conflict situations and that countering incitement to terrorism, motivated by extremism and intolerance, and addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, can complement conflict prevention efforts,

Stressing the importance of accountability in preventing future conflicts, avoiding the recurrence of serious violations of international law, including

international humanitarian law and human rights law, and enabling sustainable peace, justice, truth and reconciliation and *emphasizing* in this context the responsibility of States to comply with their relevant obligations to end impunity and, to that end, to thoroughly investigate and prosecute persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, or other serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Stressing that the fight against impunity and to ensure accountability for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other egregious crimes has been strengthened through the work on and prosecution of these crimes in the international criminal justice system, ad hoc and mixed tribunals as well as specialized chambers in national tribunals; and recognising in this regard the contribution of the International Criminal Court, in accordance with the principle of complementarity to national criminal jurisdictions as set out in the Rome Statute, towards holding accountable those responsible for such crimes; and reiterating its call on the importance of State cooperation with these courts and tribunals in accordance with the States' respective obligations,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding and *reiterating* its call to increase the equal, full and meaningful, participation, representation and involvement of women in conflict prevention and mediation efforts in a mutually reinforcing manner in line with resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013),

1. *Expresses its determination* to pursue the objective of prevention of armed conflict as an integral part of its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* all States to intensify efforts to secure a world free of the scourge of war and conflict;

3. *Stresses* that the prevention of conflicts remains a primary responsibility of States and actions undertaken within the framework of conflict prevention by the United Nations should support and complement, as appropriate, the conflict prevention roles of national governments;

4. *Reaffirms* the duty of all States to settle their international disputes by peaceful means, inter alia through negotiation, enquiry, good offices, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and judicial settlement, or other peaceful means of their own choice;

5. *Recalls* Chapter VI, in particular Articles 33 and 34 of the Charter of the United Nations, and *reaffirms* its commitment to the settlement of disputes by peaceful means and the promotion of necessary preventive action in response to disputes or situations, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security;

6. *Recognizes* that some of the tools in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, which can be used for conflict prevention, have not been fully utilized, including negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement and resort to regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, as well as the good offices of the Secretary-General, and *stresses* its determination to make and call for the greater and more effective use of such tools;

7. *Acknowledges* the important role the following can play in contributing to the prevention of the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict;

- United Nations regional offices;
- Special Political Missions;
- peacekeeping operations;
- the Peacebuilding Commission

as well as regional and subregional organizations and arrangements;

8. *Acknowledges* also that sanctions imposed under relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations are an important tool in the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security and can contribute to create conditions conducive to the peaceful resolution of situations that threaten or breach international peace and security, and support conflict prevention;

9. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue enhancing the use of his good offices, dispatching Representatives, Special Envoys and mediators, to help to facilitate durable, inclusive and comprehensive settlements and further *encourages* the Secretary-General to continue his early engagement in the prevention of potential conflicts;

10. *Encourages* field-based Special Political Missions and Peacekeeping Operations to enhance their assessment and analysis capabilities to prevent relapse into conflict within their existing mandates;

11. *Recognizes* that mediation is an important means for the pacific settlement of disputes, including wherever possible preventively and before disputes evolve into violence and *appreciates* the efforts of the Secretary-General to continue to strengthen United Nations mediation support capacities, including the Mediation Support Unit as a provider of mediation support to the United Nations system, in accordance with agreed mandates;

12. *Expresses* its willingness to give prompt consideration to early warning cases brought to its attention by the Secretary-General, including to the dispatch, in appropriate circumstances, of preventive political missions and *encourages* the Secretary-General to bring to its attention any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security, in accordance with Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations;

13. *Acknowledges* that serious abuses and violations of international human rights or humanitarian law, including sexual and gender-based violence, can be an early indication of a descent into conflict or escalation of conflict, as well as a consequence thereof; and *calls* on States which have not already done so to consider ratifying the instruments of international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law, and to take appropriate steps to implement these instruments domestically, which could contribute to timely prevention of conflicts;

14. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to refer to the Council information and analyses which he believes could contribute to the prevention of armed conflict, including on cases of serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and on potential

conflict situations arising, inter alia, from ethnic, religious and territorial disputes, poverty and lack of development;

15. *Expresses* its commitment to take early and effective action to prevent armed conflict and to that end to employ all appropriate means at its disposal, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations;

16. *Recalls* the important role of the Secretary-General's Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and the Responsibility to Protect, whose functions include acting as an early warning mechanism to prevent potential situations that could result in genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and ethnic cleansing, as well as the important role the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict can play in contributing to conflict prevention; *calls upon* States to recommit to prevent and fight against genocide, and other serious crimes under international law, and *reaffirms* paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (A/60/L.1) on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity;

17. *Recognizes* the important role the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide can play in conflict prevention and *also recognizes* the role their briefings on human rights violations and hate speech play in contributing to early awareness of potential conflict;

18. *Emphasizes* the important role that women and civil society, including women's organizations and formal and informal community leaders, can play in exerting influence over parties to armed conflict; *reiterates* the continuing need to increase success in preventing conflict by increasing the participation of women at all stages of mediation and post-conflict resolution and by increasing the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to conflict prevention;

19. *Reiterates* its request to the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys and Special Representatives to United Nations missions, as part of their regular briefings, to update the Council on progress in inviting women to participate, including through consultations with civil society, including women's organizations, in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peacebuilding;

20. *Expresses its commitment* to consider and use the tools of the United Nations system to ensure that early warning of potential conflicts translates into early, concrete preventive action, including towards the goal of protecting civilians, by or in coordination with the most appropriate United Nations or regional actor; in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

21. *Encourages* the peaceful settlement of local disputes through regional arrangements in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, *acknowledges* the efforts undertaken to strengthen operational and institutional cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations aimed at conflict prevention and in this regard *reiterates* the need to continue strengthening strategic dialogue, partnerships, and more regular exchanges of views and information at the working level, with the aim of building national and regional capacities in relation to preventive diplomacy;

22. *Calls* for enhanced cooperation and capacity building with regional and subregional organizations and arrangements to help to prevent armed conflicts, their spread and impact, including through cooperation in early warning mechanisms as well as to help facilitate preventive action; consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;

23. *Reiterates* its support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and expresses its continued willingness to make use of the advisory, advocacy and resource mobilization roles of the Peacebuilding Commission in peacebuilding activities;

24. *Reaffirms its willingness* to strengthen its relationship with civil society, including, as appropriate, through, inter alia, meetings in an informal and flexible manner with civil society, to exchange analyses and perspectives on the issue of the prevention of armed conflict;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council on actions taken by him to promote and strengthen conflict prevention tools within the United Nations system, including through co-operation with regional and subregional organizations, by August 31, 2015;

26. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.



Security Council

Distr.: General
19 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 4 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations stating that Mr. Dan Pilkington has been appointed alternate representative of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.



**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
21 August 2014

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5**Security Council**
Sixty-ninth year**Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 20 August 2014 from the Permanent Observer
of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the
President of the Security Council**

Regrettably, the cycle of violence has resumed and death and destruction are once again being meted out by Israel, the occupying Power, against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

As indicated in my letter to you of 12 August 2014, even throughout the entire period of the temporary humanitarian ceasefire and during the course of negotiations in Cairo for a permanent ceasefire agreement, Israel has never abided by the ceasefire, persisting with flying its warplanes above the Gaza Strip and with attacks by land and sea and now resuming its military airstrikes (A/ES-10/649-S/2014/585).

Over the past 24 hours, the Israeli occupying forces have carried out more than 60 military airstrikes against densely populated civilian areas in Gaza, killing at least 24 Palestinians, including children and women, and injuring more than 110 people. Among those murdered by Israel in this onslaught were six members of Al-Dalou family, including Mustafa Rabah Al-Dalou (age 14), his mother, Wafaa Hussein Al-Dalou, and Ahmad Rabah Al-Dalou (age 20), when Israeli warplanes struck their home in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City. Also killed in that strike were Widad Al-Deif (age 27) and her seven-month-old baby, Ali. The occupying forces also bombed the home of the Allouh family, killing eight of its members, including children, women and men, and injuring dozens of others. The dead included Mohammed Allouh and his two brothers, Raafat and Ahmed, as well as the wife of Raafat and their four young children. Also killed in Israeli airstrikes were a two-year-old girl, Nour Mohammed Abu Hasira, in the Al-Zeitoun neighbourhood east of Gaza City, and Mohammed Ahmed Al-Abeet (age 16) and Sahir Al-Abeet (age 11), near Deir Al-Balah in central Gaza. The intensity of the Israeli missile strikes and bombings has again flattened homes, and more civilians are feared dead as rescue personnel continue attempts to recover bodies trapped under the rubble.



The facts are that Israel has not for a moment ceased any of its illegal, destructive actions, continuing to inflict losses and suffering on the Palestinian people throughout the occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, with military raids and attacks, home demolitions, arrests and detentions, and settler terror and provocations continuing unabated during this entire period. The situation in Gaza, in particular, has remained precarious, as the barbaric Israeli military aggression and blockade have created a catastrophic humanitarian situation.

As of today, more than 2,040 Palestinians in Gaza have been brutally and deliberately killed by the Israeli occupying forces, including at least 470 children, and more than 10,300 people have been injured, many of them critically wounded and facing imminent death. Of the injured, at least 3,000 are children, of whom an estimated 1,000 will suffer from a lifelong disability. This is just one of the many indications that human suffering and trauma continue long after hostilities end and the world's attention has turned away, and that, for many, that suffering tragically continues forever.

Additionally, more than a quarter of Gaza's population remains displaced, with over 390,000 Palestinians continuing to shelter in schools of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East and with host families, and more than 100,000 people have been rendered homeless by the complete destruction of, or severe damage caused to, their homes by the occupying Power. Moreover, with vital infrastructure shattered, electricity and clean water remain scarce, hospitals remain overwhelmed, and infections and disease are spreading among the population. As all are by now aware, the humanitarian needs in this regard are staggering, and yet urgent recovery continues to be delayed in the absence of a permanent ceasefire and Israel's blatant intransigence and insistence on collectively punishing the 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza in a grave breach of international humanitarian law, including the obligation to protect the civilian population, and in gross violation of their human rights, tantamount to war crimes and crimes against humanity by the occupying Power.

We condemn all of these flagrant Israeli violations and call on the international community, including the Security Council, to demand an immediate halt to the Israeli military aggression against the Palestinian civilian population suffering under its occupation. There is an international consensus that there is no military solution to this crisis, or to the conflict as a whole for that matter, and stopping the violence now is imperative for saving innocent civilian lives, too many of which have already been lost, and promoting an environment of calm in which to conclude a permanent ceasefire agreement that halts the hostilities and seriously addresses the root causes of this crisis, including the prolonged, illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza and all of the humanitarian, socioeconomic, political and security consequences in this regard.

We thus once again urge the international community to act forthwith to demand a permanent, comprehensive ceasefire and to support the efforts being exerted in Cairo towards that objective. Continued Israeli intransigence and brinksmanship in the negotiations must not be tolerated, allowing the situation to further destabilize and spiral out of control. The duty of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security must be upheld. In this regard, the draft resolution before the Council, in document S/2014/568 of 4 August 2014, represents a sound basis for serious action to be taken and we urge the Council members to undertake this responsibility without delay.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 516 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 12 August 2014 (A/ES-10/649-S/2014/585), constitute a basic record of the crimes that have been committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations



Security Council

Distr.: General
8 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of Chile on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 8 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations stating that Mr. Javier Gorostegui has been appointed alternate representative of Chile on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.





Security Council

Distr.: General
21 August 2014

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the alternate representative of the Russian Federation on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received a letter dated 21 August 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations stating that Mr. Vadim Viktorovich Sergeev has been appointed alternate representative of the Russian Federation on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, this letter constitutes adequate provisional credentials.



**General Assembly
Security Council**Distr.: General
22 August 2014

Original: English

**General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5****Security Council
Sixty-ninth year****Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and
the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Identical letters dated 21 August 2014 from the Permanent
Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly
and the President of the Security Council**

In blatant contempt for the call reiterated yesterday by the Security Council for an immediate ceasefire, Israel, the occupying Power, continues its military airstrikes against the Gaza Strip, terrorizing the Palestinian civilian population as it wreaks further death, injury and destruction. The Palestinian nation continues to grieve as the death toll continues to rise and the lives of more innocent children, women, men and elderly persons are destroyed by this resumed Israeli onslaught.

Today, at least 29 more Palestinians have been deliberately and wantonly killed by the Israeli occupying forces in missile airstrikes, drone attacks and bombings on densely populated civilian areas. Israel has also resumed its illegal policy of targeted assassinations against Palestinians, boasting of its extrajudicial killing of several people in recent days in attacks that have also killed many civilians, including several members of the same families. Here, it must be recalled that the wilful killing and injury of persons is considered to be a grave breach as defined in article 147 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. For all these war crimes and crimes against humanity, the occupying Power must be held accountable.

Among those killed today by the Israeli occupying forces were four people hit by an Israeli drone-fired missile as they dug graves to bury their relatives at the Sheikh Radwan cemetery in Gaza City. The victims were Mohammed Talal Abu Nahl, Rami Abu Nahl, Haitham Tafesh and Abed Talal Shioukh. Another four people, all members of the Al-Reefi family, were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a garden near Al-Sunna Mosque in Gaza City. The victims of this barbaric attack were Nasr Ziyad Al-Reefi and three children: Omar Nasr Al-Reefi, Abdallah Tareq Al-Reefi and Mohammed Ziyad Al-Reefi. Today, the ninth member of the Allouh family, Iman Allouh, died of wounds sustained in an attack on her family home



yesterday; she has met the same tragic fate of many of the injured who have not survived these barbaric Israeli attacks.

In a targeted assassination strike on a home in the Tel al-Sultan neighbourhood of Rafah, Israeli occupying forces killed three men: Mohammed Barhoum, Mohammed Abu Shamalah and Raed Attar. Also killed in that airstrike were an elderly man, Hassan Hussein Younis (age 75), and his wife, Amal Ibrahim Younis (age 74), and granddaughter, Saba Rami Younis (age 4), as well another woman, Aisha Attieh (age 60) and Ahmed Nasser Kullab (age 17). A 13-year-old boy, Hassan Tamboura, and Srour Tamboura (age 36) were also killed in an Israeli airstrike on Beit Lahiya, and a 17-year-old boy, Jumaa Matar, was killed in an attack on Al-Nusreirat refugee camp. Also today, Ibrahim Issam Hammad (age 22) and Marwan Abu Shalouf (age 28) were killed by an Israeli strike on a motorcycle in Rafah. Hamdan Salem Hadayed (age 40) was killed in a strike on Khan Younis.

The terror and panic caused by the ongoing Israeli military attacks on the Palestinian civilian population in all areas of Gaza has also caused a dramatic increase in the number of displaced persons fleeing their homes for safety, after a reduction in the number of displaced persons during the period of the temporary ceasefire. According to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, there are now 435,000 Palestinians displaced in Gaza and figures of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) indicate that, at this time, more than 261,000 of the displaced are seeking shelter and protection in 82 UNRWA facilities. Here, we must again draw the international community's attention to the enormous humanitarian needs for water, food, medicines and hygiene and other essential services to these families, and reiterate the appeal for urgent donor support for the provision of emergency relief and assistance to them through UNRWA and United Nations partner agencies, including the World Food Programme, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

In this regard, children, who constitute the majority of the population of Gaza, continue to suffer disproportionately from the traumatic impact of this ongoing Israeli military aggression and the consequent insecurity, fear and despair that is plaguing the entire Palestinian civilian population. In the 48 hours since the temporary ceasefire collapsed, reports indicate that nine children have been killed and dozens injured in Israeli attacks; more are feared dead in the rubble of bombed homes.

As indicated by the UNICEF field office in Gaza, the situation of Palestinian children is extremely dire as they suffer through the third terrifying Israeli war in seven years, enduring massive physical, emotional and psychological trauma, having suffered the loss of their parents and other family and community members, witnessed the killing and injury of persons, and suffered the destruction of their homes, neighbourhoods and schools, the dispossession of their families and repeated displacement. Moreover, they continue to endure the multiple, far-reaching and traumatic effects of the pervasive poverty, hunger and illness deliberately inflicted by Israel in its successive wars on Gaza and by its inhumane blockade in gross collective punishment of the Palestinian people and disfigurement of the Palestinian society. As children around the world prepare to begin a new school year, the children in Gaza are facing the potential loss of their education opportunities if this

grave crisis continues and if the plight of the thousands of displaced sheltering in UNRWA schools is unresolved.

At the same time, Israel, the occupying Power, has been relentless in its oppression and torment of the Palestinian civilian population in the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The illegal Israeli settlement campaign, home demolitions, arrests of Palestinians, including children, military raids of towns, villages and refugee camps, and all other methods of repression continue to be perpetrated by the occupying Power against the population. The Israeli violations are innumerable but for brevity I will only point out a few:

- Yesterday, 20 August, Israeli occupying forces raided the home of Palestinian Legislative Council member Khaleda Jarrar in the pre-dawn hours and issued to her a military order demanding that she be forcibly deported from her Ramallah home within 24 hours. We condemn this unlawful act of blatant harassment and forced transfer, which is the latest illegal action against a democratically elected official. In this regard, 36 elected officials remain in captivity, under detention or administrative detention, in Israeli jails.
- Also today, the Israeli occupying forces demolished four Palestinian homes in the Nablus area, one of which was 100 years old, rendering more Palestinian families homeless. Occupying forces also carried out numerous raids in villages surrounding Nablus, forcibly searching and ransacking homes and detaining more than 30 people for hours of interrogation. Israeli settlers in the Nablus area continue their reign of terror and violence against Palestinian civilians, as another Palestinian man, Nimer Mohammed Abu Eishah (age 32), from the village of Beit Wazan, was deliberately struck today by the car of a settler.
- A young Palestinian man, 30-year-old Muath Dureidi, who was travelling back into the West Bank for a new job, was kidnapped and detained by the Israeli occupying forces at an interrogation centre near Jenin for over 28 days without any explanation. For the duration of his captivity, neither his family members nor his lawyers were allowed to visit him and, by the time he was released — on a bail of 3,000 shekels — he had suffered a nervous breakdown and had gone completely mute.

We condemn the infliction of such trauma and terror on the Palestinian people — whether collectively or individually, in the Gaza Strip or in the West Bank — by Israel, the occupying Power. Moreover, we will neither relent in our calls for an end to all of these illegal, inhumane and destructive Israeli policies and practices, nor relent in our calls for all those responsible, whether Israeli government officials, military personnel or settlers, to be held accountable for all of these heinous crimes.

In closing, as we reiterate our calls for an end to the Israeli military aggression being waged against our people in the Gaza Strip and all other crimes against the Palestinian people in the rest of the Occupied State of Palestine, we also reiterate our calls on the international community to shoulder their legal obligations and political responsibilities in this regard. As Israel continues to lay waste to international law, we call on the international community, including the Security Council, to act forthwith to give meaning to the provisions of international

humanitarian law regarding the protection of civilians in armed conflict and to uphold the commitments in this regard. Serious international action and pressure are needed to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to abandon its intransigent and maximalist positions, cease its military offensive against the defenceless civilian population under its occupation and commit to the law and principles of peace that the Palestinian people, with strong global support, have long committed themselves to.

This letter is in follow-up to our 517 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 20 August 2014 (A/ES-10/650-S/2014/607) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador

Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations